



Daily Report

Latin America

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Tuesday
16 February 1993

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Cuba

Foreign Ministry on Reply to Human Rights Letters

PA1202211493 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish
0000 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] The Cuban Foreign Ministry announced on 11 February that it answered about 20 UN notes and letters between July 1991 and November 1992 as part of a systematic effort to cooperate with this organization on the subject of human rights. Foreign Relations sources told the media that all answers provided proved the falsehood of the accusations regarding alleged human rights violations in Cuba and were accepted by the relevant groups or rapporteurs.

The Cuban authorities confirmed their willingness to continue cooperating with the United Nations, but without discriminatory treatment such as that exemplified by the unwarranted appointment of a special rapporteur. The Cuban Government believes that the approval of a special rapporteur to analyze the alleged human rights violations was achieved only through pressure and blackmail from Washington. Washington maintains a strict economic blockade on Cuba in an attempt to subdue the island by stifling it economically.

Accomplishments Defended Before UN Commission

FL1602023293 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] The Cuban delegation to the 49th session of the UN Commissions on Human Rights in Geneva said that Cuba will defend its social accomplishments and make advances in development in all its aspects.

The Cuban representation also criticized U.S. policies regarding human rights and added that the island has confronted many obstacles in its fight to build an equal society, derived, many times, from unfair economic relations and the tight embargo imposed by Washington.

The Cuban position was expressed during the debates on development, considered to be one of the pillars for the full exercise of all human rights in Cuba.

Commentary on U.S. Violation of 'Basic Rights'

PA1402022793 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish
0000 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] The U.S. delegation that participated in the 49th Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights must have felt quite uncomfortable about the reports on the economic blockade of Cuba and its attack against man's most basic rights.

The American Jurist Association disclosed a document in Geneva stating that the United Nations should condemn the United States for its economic blockade

against Cuba. The text of the document said for such a condemnation to take place, the UN Security Council's permanent members' right to veto would have to be eliminated.

In a report disclosed on 8 February at the UN Commission for Human Rights, the International League for the Rights and Liberation of Nations [Liga Internacional para los Derechos y la Liberacion de Los Pueblos] criticized the legal and economic process that allows the blockade against Cuba to persist. It also recalled that the blockade violates regulations established by GATT.

Those types of accusations at the UN Human Rights Commission are not heard frequently as what prevails at this body is a biased and one-sided attitude with respect to the dignity of man in Third World nations.

By claiming a somewhat questionable majority support—no doubt associated with arm-twisting and blackmail—Washington was able to impose a special rapporteur to monitor human rights issues in Cuba.

At any rate, during the commission sessions they conveniently overlook that it is precisely the United States that normally tends to disregard every basic international law regulation in its dispute with Cuba.

As a matter of fact, during the past 30 years the economic blockade has caused Cuba losses amounting to more than \$37 billion. Among other things, the blockade caused the fall of the Cuban sugar market, the geographical relocation of the country's sources of supply, an increase in freight costs, and the inability to use the dollar or maintain dollar accounts in foreign banks.

The restrictive measures also prevented the purchase of medication, foods, and technological know-how vital to the normal operation of an underdeveloped country like Cuba.

Thus it is quite stimulating when international organizations such as the American Jurist Association and the Internal League for the Rights and Liberation of Nations begin to take notice of the blockade's harmful effects.

In raising their voices, those organizations have begun to dismantle the dominant Western opinion related to respect for human rights issues that is evident in Geneva.

Castro Discusses National Values, Sacrifices

FL1202140693 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Next, we present another excerpt of the speech given by Fidel on 11 February in Santiago de Cuba. In this segment, the leader of the revolution cites the motherland and the values of those who never betray that which is most precious.

[Begin Castro recording] No one betrays [vende] his brother. No one betrays his mother or his father. No one

betrays his children under any circumstances or relinquishes them, no matter how great the sacrifices. This is how we must view the motherland. This is how we must view justice. This is how must view liberty. We are able to say no true Cuban betrays his mother which is the motherland. [lengthy applause]

No true Cuban betrays his brother which is the feeling of solidarity. No true Cuban betrays his children which are liberty, dignity, honor, equality, justice. These are the values we revolutionaries defend. [lengthy applause]

Roundup of Politburo Members Activities 6 - 12 Feb *FL1202235793*

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on the activities of members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 6 February and 12 February.

Pedro Ross urged workers at the Francisco Perez German export cigar factory to vote for all candidates in the 24 February elections. [Radio Reloj 1700 GMT 6 Feb]

General Ulises Rosales del Toro attended a ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the Antonio Maceo Interservice Academy. [Radio Rebelde 1800 GMT 6 Feb]

In Havana Pedro Ross Leal attended several Cuban Workers Federation tobacco sector assembly meetings at various work centers. He discussed ways to mobilize workers to participate in the 24 February elections. More than 3,000 workers participated in the meetings.

The Gregorio Manalich Agro-Industrial Complex in Melena del Sur Municipality, Havana Province, was the most outstanding in sugar production in January 1993. Candido Palmero presented the workers with an outstanding working group award and with a banner for the most outstanding group in the construction of houses for workers. [Radio Progreso 1200 GMT 8 Feb]

Pedro Ross termed as positive the adoption of measures at a meeting of the Cuban Workers Federation National Secretariat. He discussed efforts to improve safety conditions and discussed minibrigades and the construction of houses for workers. Labor discipline and the progress of the food program and sugar harvest were also discussed. [Radio Rebelde 1800 GMT 9 Feb] Ricardo Alarcon attended a meeting of residents of District No. 2, Rampa-Vedado, with deputy candidates to the provincial assembly. Alarcon is a candidate from this district. [Radio Rebelde 1000 GMT 10 Feb] Resident councils are being formed in rural areas of Las Tunas Province. Alfredo Jordan Morales said the purpose of these resident councils is to find solutions to problems and achieve unity. [Radio Rebelde 1800 GMT 10 Feb]

Esteban Lazo, the first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba for Santiago de Cuba Province, is accompanying

Fidel Castro during Castro's tour of Santiago de Cuba Province. [Cuba Vision 2320 GMT 10 Feb]

Maria de los Angeles Garcia Alvarez, a candidate to deputy of the National Assembly of the People's Government, is in Santiago de Cuba Municipality, touring the area with other candidates. [Radio Rebelde 0000 GMT 12 Feb]

On the evening of 11 February, President Fidel Castro closed a working meeting at the Heredia Theater in Santiago de Cuba. Among those present were Roberto Robaina, Jose Ramon Balaguer, Maria de los Angeles Garcia, Alfredo Jordan, and Esteban Lazo, as well as the first secretaries of the party for the other eastern provinces, the candidates to the Santiago de Cuba provincial assembly, and the candidates to the National Assembly from Santiago de Cuba Province. [Radio Rebelde 1800 GMT 12 Feb]

UJC Meeting Stresses Crime Prevention Programs

FL1202152793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] The influence of society and family in crime prevention, the education of new generations, and community living were the main issues discussed at the youth debate meeting in Santiago de Cuba. Roberto Robaina, a member of the Politburo and the first secretary of the Union of Young Communists [UJC], and Vilma Espin, the president of the Federation of Cuban Women, participated in the debates with 300 youths from Guantanamo, Holguin, and Santiago de Cuba Provinces.

The guests and delegates heard about the results of the social and cultural programs implemented in areas with a crime problem, as well as prison programs that reeducate inmates. The studies being conducted in this field by university students and political and mass organizations were also of interest. A consensus was reached on the need to unite efforts in preventing an increase in crime and in strengthening ideological and political training in each case.

Greater Monitoring of Distribution Urged

FL1502021593 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Greater economic monitoring of the food and industrial goods that are received and distributed to the public will be the main task of the wholesale trade workers in 1993. That was the main resolution of the evaluation meeting held by the Havana City Province Directorate of the Wholesale Trade. At the meeting, decentralization of the food warehouses of the municipal basic units and the rapid unloading and distribution of the available products were highlighted as steps forward during 1992. This in turn contributed to reducing the trucks' length of stay.

In the evaluation of the wholesale trade, it was noted that under current conditions, in addition to more rigorous monitoring of everything that is distributed, it is essential to link the work of the wholesale enterprises with that of the retail enterprises so that the available products will reach the public quickly and in good condition.

Some of the participants in the working meeting for the wholesale trade proposed possible solutions or alternatives for handling problems with missing inventories, reliable bookkeeping, hiring of qualified people at the units or warehouses, and the Unified Vigilance and Protection System.

Penalties for Economic Crimes Defined

FL1302172193 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] According to the current penal code, anyone involved in the administration or care of, or accessibility to goods—that are the property of socialist state enterprises, cooperatives, or any social or mass organizations—who misappropriates these goods incurs a prison sentence of two to five years.

One example of the crime of embezzlement is the case of Juan Acosta Aldana who was personnel director of the constructive maintenance group of El Salvador Municipality in Guantanamo Province. According to the investigation, we were able to learn that on many occasions the suspect embezzled sums of money that he would report on behalf of employees who no longer worked in the aforementioned enterprise.

To carry out his criminal activity, the suspect would produce false certificates and would also report fraudulent work days with the purpose of collecting the salaries of ghost workers. The negative behavior of this suspect revealed a series of administrative violations that served as conditions for him to embezzle the sums of money. Among these violations was a lack of control of payroll even though they [not further identified] were signed by persons other than the worker. Furthermore, these signatures were used without considering the daily work reports.

According to Prosecutor Carmen Sugrana of Guantanamo's provincial prosecutor's office, the suspect was sentenced to three years in jail and fined 250 pesos for the crime of embezzlement. As a civil responsibility he must repay the state the sum of 210 pesos for damages.

Fuel Shortage Affects Armed Forces

PA1502014393 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1615 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Havana, 13 Feb (DPA)—The CUBA INTERNACIONAL magazine reports on 13 February that the Cuban Armed Forces, affected by a serious fuel shortage, are using alternatives to transport weapons and supplies.

The magazine explains that a motorized infantry unit of the Western Army is confronting the shortage caused by the collapse of vital supplies from the former Soviet Union.

Lieutenant Colonel Pedro Somonte Labrador, chief of the Maintenance and Repairs Department of that military unit, said weapons such as anti-aircraft guns have been mounted on tricycles [triciclos] to save fuel.

The officer quoted by CUBA INTERNACIONAL said "in our workshops, we have designed and built prototypes of several bicycles for different combat uses."

He added that "for over two years, we have transported all the supplies from the main garrison on bicycles or horse-drawn wagons."

The officer said his unit has also built food processing machines as part of the Armed Forces efforts to be self-sufficient with regard to the food supply at a moment when a broad shortage is affecting the communist-ruled island.

The collapse of the Soviet Union ended an extensive Cuban-Soviet military cooperation program, through which Havana received all sorts of things, from weapons to technical assistance.

On his part, General Venancio Avila Guerrero, commander of a tank unit and veteran of the war in Angola, said his military unit had been training to operate under the conditions of the so-called "option zero."

"The time might come when we do not have even a single drop of oil and we will continue to operate," said Gen. Avila Guerrero, who disclosed that his unit's gasoline consumption has already been reduced by 70 percent.

Earlier reports from the Cuban State media have said that tanks and other military vehicles are being equipped with gas generators fueled by solid fuels such as coal or firewood.

The Cuban media also reported that Air Force technicians have repaired a Soviet-made MIG-21 fighter, for the first time, without help from specialists from the former Soviet Union.

Furthermore, Cuba is now prepared to repair submarines at one of its enterprises located in the central Cienfuegos Province, approximately 350 km south of Havana.

According to reports from the National Information Agency, at the workshops of the "Granma" unit in that area, a dependency of the Cuban Navy, workers also repair ship engines and different types of docks.

International Health Agreements Signed

FL1202183093 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1507 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] The national production of essential medicines and the validation processes of vaccinations for human and animal use make up the new fronts of cooperation between Cuba and the World and Panamerican Health Organizations. The initial budget for this exchange exceeds \$1 million. The majority of the funds will come from regional and extra budgetary funding though an additional \$1.5 million could be negotiated later.

Roundup of Economic Activity 10 - 12 Feb

FL1302000793

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 10 February and 12 February.

As part of the integral energy program, use of animal-drawn equipment for agricultural tasks has increased. More than 11,000 oxen are being used, while another 4,000 are being domesticated. Approximately 5,500 ox-teams have prepared more than 700 caballerias with cultivation of another 5,300 caballerias. A workshop produces tools to be used in conjunction with the animal-drawn equipment. The report adds that a further 3,000 oxen will begin to be domesticated in the next few months. [Radio Progreso 1200 GMT 10 Feb]

Specialists from the National Energy Commission have said peat makes up the largest reserve of solid fossil fuel that is known in the country. The largest deposits are located in the Cienaga de Zapata. [Radio Rebelde 1800 GMT 10 Feb]

Workers at Guantanamo Province's sugar mills have been called upon to redouble efforts to mill more cane and fulfill the sugar production plan in April. Eugenio Cuevas, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and the party first secretary in Guantanamo Province, urged sugar sector workers to put into effect whatever initiatives will allow them to stabilize the milling operations, which have been harmed by the unexpected rains at the end of January. It has been found that Guantanamo Province's six mills have, all together, produced just over 64 percent of their potential. Breakdowns in equipment have caused the mills to stop operations a number of times, leading to considerable waste during the making of the crude sugar.

The Sergio Soto Oil Refinery in Cabaiguan Municipality, Sancti Spiritus Province, produced approximately 5,600 tons of basic oils in 1992, which saved the nation hard currency. During the center's economic assessment, it was learned that only 80 percent of the production plan for crude oil was fulfilled, because of a lack of raw materials. [Radio Reloj 2030 GMT 10 Feb] Over the past three years, more than 7,000 patients afflicted with retinitis pigmentosa have been operated on in Cuba,

where a modern surgical technique to stop the progress of this disease is employed. Foreigners from some 40 different countries are among those who have benefited from this technique. Until the technique was developed, the disease was considered incurable worldwide. In addition to the national center for the treatment of retinitis pigmentosa located in the capital, the technique is being successfully employed at facilities in five provinces. [Radio Reloj 0200 GMT 11 Feb]

Five of the 15 sugar mills producing sugar in Matanzas Province will resume milling, even if in an unstable manner, explaining that in the past 48 hours, rain has limited the cutting and removing of the cane from the fields. It is further reported that working groups from a number of enterprises have begun, in Holguin Province, a program aimed at producing low-cost building materials, such as almost 5 million low-cost pressed bricks. Such materials—which are made of clay, scraps from stone quarries, and other such things, which abound in the province—are currently being used to make some 400,000 bricks per month. In 1992, the Construction Materials Industry, the Sugar Industry Ministry, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the people's government produced almost 4 million bricks, which made it possible to finish over 300 low-cost housing units and continue work on another 500 housing units in different stages of construction. Holguin Province has close to 1,000 sources of soil-cement with which to make such low-cost bricks. [Radio Reloj 2030 GMT 11 Feb] A report on the status of the sugar harvest by agricultural reporter Diosdado Maso in which Maso notes that the harvest is still not doing as well as it should. Maso says that among the factors influencing this state of affairs are the rains, interruptions in operations, equipment breakdowns, and a lack of cane, despite the fact that this harvest was planned taking into account the difficulties with inputs and fuel that Cuba knew it would have. He says this harvest is also the shortest in the last few years; therefore, a solution must be found as quickly as possible, and the installed capacity of each mill must be exploited to the maximum, milling must be high and stable, and all the cane cut must be used. Maso stresses that in this harvest, Cuba cannot afford the luxury of losing any of the cane at any step in the manufacturing process, and that however simple a decision made, it must be the right decision. There is no room for error, and everything must be foreseen. Maso points out that rain has affected all provinces quite a bit, especially Pinar del Rio and Guantanamo Province, and sugar recovery in those two provinces is very low. He notes that Pinar del Rio, which is harvesting both sugarcane and tobacco simultaneously, is in a particularly difficult position. Because of the rains, this province has had problems with potatoes, and it does not have the labor force it needs. Overall, the provinces with the greatest problems continue to be Camaguey, Ciego de Avila, and Matanzas. Maso notes that the harvest must be finished in April. [Radio Rebelde 0000 GMT 12 Feb]

The coffee harvest has just been completed in Pinar del Rio Province with 100,000 more cans of beans harvested

than in the previous one. The population, organized by the people's councils, harvested 73 percent of the harvest, which is higher than in previous years. [Radio Reloj 2030 GMT 12 Feb]

A new telephone switching station, with an initial capacity of 600 lines, has been installed in the Escambray Region in Manicaragua Municipality, Villa Clara Province. [Cuba Vision 2320 GMT 12 Feb]

Raul Castro Meets With South African Delegation

FL1202161393 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Today, GRANMA newspaper reports that Army General Raul Castro, the second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, met with the delegation of the South African Communist Party, headed by its secretary general, Chris Hani. Raul transmitted the greetings of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro to the delegation and expounded on some aspects of the national and international situation. He also reiterated the unconditional solidarity of the Cuban people with the heroic struggle of the South African brothers and sisters.

Chris Hani and his comrades expressed their people's appreciation for the generous contributions Cuba has made to the cause of freedom in Africa. Moreover, they expressed their admiration for the firmness and unselfishness with which our country faces the embargo and imperialist hostility, and upholds the banners of national independence and socialism under the leadership of the party headed by Fidel.

Candido Palmero Meets With Delegation

FL1202183193 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1458 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Following a tour of Havana Province, Chris Hani, the secretary general of the South African Communist Party, said he was impressed by the optimism and work of the Cuban people. During his tour, Candido Palmero, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba for Havana Province, spoke to Hani and his delegation about the experience of the contingents and the efforts the province is making to supply approximately 3 million Havana residents with food.

The South African Communist leader said he had seen a responsible commitment to the work. Hani said he was convinced that the special period is another stage of the Cuban struggle to defeat the U.S. permanent offensive. After visiting agricultural camps, student centers, and cooperatives, among other places of interest, Hani stated: We believe Cuba has a lot to teach us even in the ways of establishing people's basic rights.

Havana Notes African Nations Reject U.S. Actions

FL1402213893 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Seven African countries have rejected U.S. hostility against Cuba during a tour by a Cuban delegation headed by Vice Foreign Minister Fernando Remirez. Ugandan, Ethiopian, Burundian, Tanzanian, Zambian, Botswana, and Zimbabwean authorities made statements against the embargo and in favor of increasing their ties with Cuba. Remirez and those accompanying him traveled today from Harare to Namibia. This will be the last leg of their trip.

Haiti

Theodore Calls Strike To Pressure Bazin Resignation

FL1202210493 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Rene Theodore, leader of the Movement For National Reconstruction [MRN] has called for a 24-hour general strike on 16 February in order to demand Prime Minister Marc Bazin's resignation.

[Begin Theodore recording] A general strike is necessary to dismiss Bazin. It is very clear the Haitian people never wanted Bazin. The international community has never recognized him and will never recognize a government (?that grabbed power). There is chaos, difficulties with the country's currency, corruption, bankruptcy of businessmen, and worthless money [zorey bourik]. They have destroyed the university. Hunger is spreading throughout the population. There is repression and ill-treatment of students, journalists, and young children. There are epidemics, sickness, and death. Additionally, there is a fake electoral council, fake senators, and fake deputies who have come to interrupt the peaceful solution to solve the crisis. All of this has led to the degradation of Haiti under a government (?grabbing power) that continues to stick to the country like fleas on a horse's back.

We are tired! We are tired! The solution to the country's problem will begin only when Bazin resigns. For that reason, MRN is asking the population throughout the country to go on a 24-hour strike on 16 February in order to pressure Bazin to resign. All the sectors in the country are concerned because it is the entire society, all of us, who are sinking with Bazin in power. Strike on 16 February! [end recording]

Political Parties Urge Justice Nerette's Return

FL1202195093 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Seven political parties wrote to Justice Joseph Nerette to ask him to return to power. Pastor Vladimir Jeanty for PARADI [Haitian Party of God], Francois Latortue for MODEL/PRDH [Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti], Rockefeller Guerre for UPD

[Union of Democratic Patriots], Francis Jean for FMR [expansion unknown], Hubert De Ronceray for MDN [Mobilization for National Development], Dr. Greger Jean-Louis for MOP [Movement For the Organization of the Country], and Gregoire Eugene for PSCH [Haitian Christian Party] believe that as a result of Marc Bazin's government, the country has lost all political, social, and economic direction.

The government is not based on any constitutional foundation and sinks more deeply each day into illegality, according to the seven political parties that invite Justice Nerette—since he did not resign—to return as head of the country. They believe he will thus create a government of social peace, national reconciliation, and national unity, which will allow political leaders to unite in defense of the national sovereignty that is being threatened.

Nerette Expresses Readiness To Return

FL1202195393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1530 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Former Provisional President Joseph Nerette states that on behalf of the nation, he is ready to return to the post of constitutional president of the Republic, the sacrifice of his life in order, quote, to bloc the way to occupation and open the way toward a definitive solution to the crisis, unquote. Justice Nerette was thus answering to the leaders of the political parties, including MDN and MODEL/PRDH who are asking for his return to the provisional presidency.

Former President Manigat Rejects UN/OAS Mission

FL1202214893 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] The Assembly of Progressive National Democrats [RDNP] is against a civilian mission as a solution. The party of former Haitian President Leslie Manigat is once again against the OAS civilian mission as a solution to the political crisis.

In a document published on 12 February and entitled: The White Men are Landing, Patriotic Refusal and National Resistance, Professor Manigat has repeated his personal and party's position. Mr. Manigat wrote, quote, we cannot accept, without turning a hair, this foreign interference suddenly appointed as a right, and even as a duty, unquote. The former president has accused, without naming them, quote, the men who accepted a long time ago the principle and the reality of the foreign trusteeship of the country who seemed only to balk on the terms of reference and on the lack of respect that the foreigner had shown toward them in communicating those conditions, unquote.

Repeating the words of Prime Minister Marc Bazin: we have failed [nou chire], Leslie Manigat thinks that this cry was a self-incrimination and a confession of failure that should have been followed by a resignation or a

capitulation. Professor Manigat also refers to a document published by his party, RDNP, which clearly expresses the former president's position on the sending of a civilian mission to Haiti, which he rejects.

Trinidad and Tobago

Thousands Demonstrate Against Government Plans

FL1302013193 Bridgetown CANA in English 2151 GMT 12 Feb 93

[By Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 12, CANA—Thousands of government workers marched through the streets of Port of Spain Friday in one of the biggest demonstrations here in a decade. The march which was supported by almost 15,000 workers started at Memorial Park, about one mile away from Parliament, and went through various streets before circling the Red House, seat of parliament, several times.

Placard-bearing marchers booed government parliamentarians including Prime Minister Patrick Manning and Finance Minister Wendell Mottley as they made their way to the chamber. The sitting of the chamber was also delayed 15 minutes by the massive crowd. There was also an increased police presence around and inside the Parliament.

The workers are protesting the delay by government in paying a more than 2 billion dollar (1 TT dollar = 23.5 U.S. cents) debt to the workers arising from suspension of increments and arrears on a 2 per cent increase in salary. They are also protesting government's plan to send home more than 3,000 workers from the Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, the Public Transport Service Corporation, and the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA). Government said it was unable to continue to heavily subsidize the utilities, described as inefficient and over-staffed.

President of the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Association, Anthony Garcia, said during a rally at the Woodford Square, opposite the Parliament, that teachers were prepared to march until all their demands were met. President-general of the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Trade Union, Francis Mungroo, said workers were prepared to "go to the end" to ensure that "not a single worker must go."

Army on Full Alert; 26 Feb General Strike Planned

FL1502163893 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1100 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Soldiers have been put on alert in Trinidad, as Ken Thomas reports.

[Begin Thomas recording] [Word indistinct] crisis in Trinidad is continuing to gain momentum. Another massive demonstration by public workers took place

around the Parliament building last Friday and reports say the local defense force has been placed on full alert.

Sources said the Army has been alert since the protest march two Fridays ago which involved angry officers that belonged to the police service. The officers are angry over the recent hiring of Scotland Yard personnel to work in Trinidad and that march is now under investigation. Thousands of public servants are up in arms against fiscal measures being undertaken by the government, including the planned retrenchment of a number of workers.

Meanwhile, the National Trade Union Center, which is an umbrella body representing all of the labor unions here in Trinidad and Tobago, has planned a general strike for February 26 if the workers' demands are not met. According to Mr. Errol McCloud, head of the National Trade Union Center, the whole country will stand still on that date.

About 12,000 workers were involved in last Friday's demonstration. The march began in uptown Port of Spain, then the workers marched around the Red House parliament building several times and went to nearby Woodford Square where they were addressed by labor leaders.

From Port of Spain, Trinidad, this is Ken Thomas reporting for Trans World Radio. [end recording]

Ruling Party Official on Social, Industrial Unrest

FL1502220993 Bridgetown CANA in English 2100
GMT 15 Feb 93

[By Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 15, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's ruling party, fearful of possible social unrest, could be getting internal recommendations on the removal of the national security minister and for a reversal of salary increases to ministers. The recommendations will be made early next month by a committee comprising the People's National Movement [PNM] general secretary, Nello Mitchell; field officer, Stevenson Sarjeant; Foreign Affairs Minister Ralph Maraj; and Gordon Draper, minister in the prime minister's office with responsibilities for public information and the public service.

The committee was set up earlier this month following concerns raised by Sarjeant to the central executive committee which comprises political leader and Prime Minister Patrick Manning and Chairman Dr. Lenny Saith about the possibility of social unrest arising from unpopular decisions and policies by the government. Mitchell said because of the hostile industrial climate, many people believed that social unrest in the country was imminent.

"I think it then heralded to the party that the situation was more explosive than we thought. So we thought that to pre-empt anything that is likely to interfere with the

smooth running of the country and the government that the party looks at this situation and come up with ideas so as to avert something happening in Trinidad and Tobago."

He said that the committee made the conclusions which would assist the party to either preclude social unrest or to deal with it if it were to take place.

"The consensus among members was that desperate measures have to be taken to deal with desperate situation," Mitchell remarked. He said it was not too late for the government to admit "that perhaps" it had made errors of judgment and could nullify or postpone some measures until the economy could support them or people's confidence was restored in the administration.

"There was also a belief that the government's measures may have contributed to the problem," he said.

"One of the major issues is the increase of salaries to ministers and senior public servants, but I believe what was more traumatic to the people outside there, was the increase of salaries to the ministers as opposed to those public servants," he told CANA.

"After all the ministers are the ones who are in the limelight and as a result, they are the ones likely to feel the full brunt of the people's disenchantment as far as that was concerned."

Mitchell said apart from unpopular decisions and policies another problem facing the government was the perception of arrogance among senior ministers. It was one of the accusations levelled against Security Minister Russell Huggins by the two associations representing the police.

Mitchell said the committee looked at the issue of arrogance under a "powerful microscope" because it was expected that the government would have learnt from experiences of the defeated National Alliance for Reconstruction and other past PNM administrations which were accused of being arrogant.

"It seems, and this is a personal view, that ministers of government are acting in the same manner as those before and at this juncture of our political history (after term in opposition) the people would have expected that the PNM's performance would have been bereft of things like arrogance," he said.

"...The PNM government has to understand that it has to act in a manner that would ensure that the people (have) confidence in the government's ability to run the affairs of the country to their benefit."

Mitchell told CANA that he did not want to comment on the recommendations, but added, "all I can say, is that some of them will appear to be drastic in order to take care of this situation."

He said the committee had to define the problems which could lead to social unrest in the country before making

any suggestions to the central executive committee, the party's second highest organ.

The 14-month old government has been facing growing industrial unrest in recent weeks as thousands of government-paid workers marched around the Parliament Building to protest against the non-payment of a billion

dollar wages and salaries debt and against plans for retrenchment of workers in public utilities and regional corporations (local government). In addition, some 300 policemen in an unprecedented move, staged a march around Parliament to protest against the installation of five Scotland Yard detectives in executive positions in the local service.

Baja California Electoral Officials Report Results

PA1602010893 Mexico City Canal 13 Television
Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Report by Hector Guerrero from Baja California Sur]

[Excerpt] The State Electoral Commission of Baja California Sur has issued the first official results concerning the 7 February elections. One of the most attractive phenomena in Mexican politics has occurred there. The Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] has won the governorate but the results of the congressional and municipal elections are still too close to call.

Following are the official results: PRI, 49,990 votes; National Action Party [PAN], 45,006 votes; Popular Socialist Party, 180 votes; Party of the Democratic Revolution, 482 votes; Cardenista Front for National Reconstruction Party, 178 votes; Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution, 221 votes; Revolutionary Workers Party, 581 votes; Mexican Democratic Party, 133 votes; and California Sur Democratic Party, 16 votes.

State Electoral Commission President Carlos Armando Rondero said earlier on 15 February that the PRI had won in seven districts and the PAN won in eight districts, thus obtaining the majority seats in congress. Nevertheless, Jaime Tushman, PAN candidate for the Second District, resigned from the party on 14 February; adding he will become an independent candidate for the local congress. Candidates have already received documents certifying their victory at the electoral district level. [Passage omitted]

Government Supports Banana Exporting Countries

PA1302224493 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
0930 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Mexico City, 13 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Government joins other Latin American countries in rejecting the EEC's restriction of banana imports from the region, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat has reported.

The Foreign Secretariat said Mexico backs the Guayaquil Declaration in which Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Ecuador, and Panama appeal to the EEC to find a balanced solution to the problem.

The secretariat, which said Mexico's stand takes into consideration the interests of all involved parties, thinks

the decision made by the EEC agriculture ministers represents a protectionist measure that does not correspond to the objectives of the GATT Uruguay Round of talks. The situation jeopardizes any negotiation that could be conducted on the banana problem, it was added.

In conclusion, the Foreign Secretariat reiterated the Mexican Government's concern over these types of decisions that have negative consequences for Latin American countries, whose policies are oriented toward opening their economies with programs for the population's welfare and development.

Commerce Secretariat on Foreign Investments

PA1602043093 Mexico City Canal 13 Television
Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Mexico received \$8.334 billion in new investments in 1992. Although the amount is 15.8 percent less than the 1991 figure, it represents the second highest annual amount ever registered—despite the unfavorable conditions which marked the international economy and greater competition among countries to attract foreign capital.

The Commerce Secretariat report on the evolution of foreign investments reveals that foreign capital accumulated during the first four years of the current administration reached \$26.123 billion. This figure surpasses by 8.9 percent the goal established by the current administration.

24 Dead in Drug Related Land Feud

PA1102224793 Mexico City Canal 13 Television
Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Report by Enrique Gutierrez San Miguel in Guerrero State—live or recorded]

[Text] A family feud resulted in the deaths of 24 people who were gunned down in Tlacotepec Municipality, Guerrero State. The massacre appears to be an act of revenge over some land on which drugs were produced. The family that was gunned down was traveling in a truck when they were intercepted by at least 40 people, judging by the number of bullet shells found at the site.

Tlacotepec Municipal President Pedro Moreno Chapa said the investigation is in the hands of the Attorney General's Office.

Costa Rica**President Attends Opening of Naval Installations**

PA1202134993 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 7 Feb 93 p 22a

[Text] On 6 February, President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier and Public Security Minister Luis Fishman attended the opening of the new installations at Puerto Limon Naval Base.

The previous naval base was destroyed on 22 April 1992 by the Limon earthquake. The new building is valued at 4 million colones and is big enough to house 40 people.

In addition, 34 new ambulances were unloaded in Limon and will soon be put into service by the Public Force, thereby improving efficiency during any rescue operation.

Trade Minister Cited on Free Trade Treaty

PA1402023793 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] The free trade framework treaty signed by Venezuela and Colombia with the Central American countries is a very important step for integrating the Caribbean Basin, Foreign Trade Minister Roberto Rojas has said. The treaty will serve to establish a free zone extending from the Rio Grande in Mexico and including all of Central America, Colombia, and Venezuela.

Rojas said this is a very important step in the ambitious plans for extended integration from northern to southern Central America.

The free trade framework treaty's signatory countries have until 30 June to define certain points of the treaty, Rojas said. There are deadlines to define the lifting of tariffs on free market products. Rojas also stated that the treaty, which will deal with other points such as protocols, procedures, protective measures, and rules for settling disagreements, is expected to be ready by 30 June.

Costa Rica's comments on eliminating tariffs on agricultural products as well as the determination of the negotiation method and handling of state purchases were accepted, thus making it possible to sign the treaty. Rojas said that once those points were settled, Costa Rica signed the framework treaty, thus paving the way for the creation of a very important integration zone.

As for the free trade bilateral treaty with Mexico, a schedule will be established to continue the negotiations, Rojas said. The negotiators of the two countries will arrange this schedule next week so the free trade treaty with Mexico can be signed during the first quarter of this year.

The framework signed in Caracas includes only Colombia and Venezuela, although Mexico was present at the meeting.

El Salvador**UN Observers Announce End of Weapons Destruction**

PA1302125193 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] A 12 February Onusal [UN observers for El Salvador] bulletin announced the end of the arms destruction process for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front weapons inventory.

The Onusal bulletin read that the last weapons on the inventory were destroyed on 11 February at Las Marias, Usulután Department, and in Perquin, Morazan Department. These were the only sites where the finalization of the peace process had not concluded.

In this manner, the process that was initiated in December concludes. This process, Onusal said, had experienced delays that were reported at the time.

FMLN Leader Comments on Missiles Destruction

PA1402132993 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 13 Feb 93 p 7

[Text] Leonel Gonzalez, leader of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] stated on 13 February that "we have not yet announced the missiles destruction." At the same time, he expressed his concern for the small amount of Army weapons in the hands of civilians that has been collected.

"We are astonished at Cristiani's statements" Gonzalez said in reference to the president's disclosure that the missiles destruction had already begun. According to Gonzalez, the only thing the FMLN had done was to transfer the missiles from Chalatenango to San Salvador.

In recalling that the missiles destruction is subject to the purging in the Armed Forces, Gonzalez disclosed that the FMLN will request a report from the UN secretary general on the measures Cristiani has taken to purge the Armed Forces.

With respect to the destruction of conventional weapons, he said that "we have destroyed all the different calibers of rifles," which has amounted to 5,000 small arms, 800 to 1,000 mortars, machine guns, and canons. "Everything has been destroyed" Gonzalez said. He insisted that the Armed Forces has only gathered approximately 500 weapons of the thousands that were left under the control of the civil defenses, local patrols, as well as demobilized soldiers and added that "those weapons are linked to criminal activities."

With respect to armed groups in the FMLN, Gonzalez said that "who has to say this is the responsibility of Onusal [UN observers for El Salvador], and so far this organization has not said anything about the existence of armed groups."

PCN Rejects Allegations of Forming MAC Alliance

PA1302041393 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 11 Feb 93 p 1

[Text] National Conciliation Party (PCN) leaders rejected allegations that they were forming an alliance with the Authentic Christian Movement (MAC) party for the 1994 elections.

According to Deputy Rafael Moran Orellana of the PCN wing in the Legislative Assembly, the party is organized well enough to face alone the upcoming presidential, municipal, and legislative elections, "and the political timing favors us."

MAC party spokesmen recently stated that they will form an alliance with the PCN for the upcoming electoral campaign. A left-wing coalition is mentioned involving the Christian Democratic Party, which is internally suffering because of disagreements as to a choice of a party presidential candidate.

Moran Orellana accused Treasury Minister Edwin Sagera of violating Decree 789 concerning vehicle import facilities afforded to fellow Salvadorans when they return from the United States.

Codefam Says Human Rights Violations Persisting

PA1402181893 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Report by Alfredo Villareal]

[Text] Citing reports issued by the UN observers for El Salvador [Onusal] and the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman, the Mariana Garcia Villa Committee of Relatives of Murdered and Missing People and in Favor of the Release of Political Prisoners in El Salvador (Codefam) on 12 February stated that human rights violations are persisting in the country. Murders and forceful disappearances are the most common violations cited by a Codefam report.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] Reports issued, for example, by the Onusal human rights division from August 1991 and May 1992 indicate there were 167 summary executions, 44 of which were attributed to active or former members of the Armed Forces and 93 to unidentified individuals, and also 217 death threats, 93 made by Armed Forces members, nine attributed to the Secret Anticommunist Army, that is, death squads, and 54 attributed to unidentified individuals. [end recording]

Codefam added that the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman has reported over 500 violations of the Salvadoran people's most basic rights.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] That office issued a report stating there were 112 violations of the right to due process, 197 violations of the right to life, 121 violations of the right to personal freedom, and 179

violations of the right to personal safety from July to December 1992. [figures as heard] [end recording]

Codefam members think the situation in El Salvador is becoming complex and critical, because citizens do not feel safe. This prevents authorities from overcoming an atmosphere of prevailing fear.

Guatemala

Bomb Explodes at Christian Democracy Party Offices

PA1302175793 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1712 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The former ruling Guatemalan Christian Democracy (DCG) on 13 February reported that a homemade bomb exploded at its office without causing any injuries. DCG sources told ACAN-EFE that unidentified individuals on 12 February detonated the bomb, damaging the main door of the building.

The action is an "act of intimidation" against the DCG leadership and is part of a wave of attacks to block the peace talks, particularly after the resumption of dialogue between the government and guerrillas scheduled for 23 February, sources stated.

They warned that despite the attack, the DCG will continue its struggle so that social justice and respect for human rights can prevail in the country within a framework of peace.

The attack took place two days after five DCG members, including Secretary General Alfonso Cabrera and Congress President Jose Lobo, reported they received death threats.

The threats, according to the political leaders, are due to the fact that they met last week with the "commanders" of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) in Mexico.

Defense Minister Jose Domingo Garcia has ruled out that Army members are implicated in the threats against the political leaders.

Government Minister Francisco Perdomo on 13 February offered protection to leaders of the political party that governed Guatemala between 1986 and 1991 with Vinicio Cerezo, now a deputy at the Central American Parliament.

Bomb Damages Solidarity Action Movement Office

PA1302192793 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1851 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 13 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The main office of the Solidarity Action Movement (MAS), the ruling party in Guatemala, on 13 February was seriously damaged by a bomb, the National Police and the fire department have reported.

The sources said that unidentified individuals detonated a bomb at 0215 (0815 GMT) [times as received] at the MAS office, but there were no casualties. The explosion caused considerable damage to the building housing the office as well as neighboring homes in Guatemala City, the police added.

The identity of the attackers so far is unknown. [passage omitted]

Beteta Found Guilty in Myrna Mack Case

PA1302005693 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Noel de Jesus Beteta has been found guilty. This was the last ruling issued by Dr. Carmen Ellgutter de Figueroa as Third Court judge before her promotion to the rank of Supreme Court of Justice magistrate. The congressional decision to promote her was reported as a possible maneuver to separate her from this case.

Dr. Figueroa met in her office with the media on 12 February.

[Begin recording] [Figueroa] A clerk will now read the sentence. Will you please read it?

[Unidentified clerk] The sentence in document [number indistinct] states the following:

First, Noel de Jesus Beteta Alvarez is found guilty of the crime of critical injuries against Emilio Ramirez and the murder of Myrna Elizabeth Mack. The defendant is hereby condemned to 5 commutable years in prison for causing critical injuries and 25 not commutable years for murder. This sentence must be served in a prison specified by the Judicial Branch after it deducts the time he has already served. As a result, the exercise of his rights is hereby suspended while he serves his sentence.

Second, it has been decided that the defendant is exempt from paying for the legal documents charges and court costs.

Third, the defendant is condemned to pay the costs resulting from the crime of critical injury, which have been established in the amount of 10,000 quetzales, to the injured minor. The defendant must pay the amount within three days of this sentence, without the need to resort to collection or injunction. In case of insolvency, a complaint may be filed through the appropriate channels [words indistinct] certified copy of this sentence. Regarding compensation for the murder crime, no mention is made, given that the legal heirs of the deceased have specifically waived their rights.

Fourth, the request submitted by the private accuser to start another trial against Edgar Augusto Godoy Gaitan, Juan Valencia Osorio, Juan Guillermo Oliva Carrera, Juan Jose Larios, Juan Jose Del Cid Morales, and a man whose surname is Charchal is rejected, given that there are insufficient grounds, unless the Human Rights

Ombudsman specifically states which security state members are directly responsible for the death of Myrna Elizabeth Mack.

Sixth [as heard], since the defendant is in prison, he will remain there until the court of jurisdiction is notified of the ruling.

Please notify the defendant and inform him of his rights and the amount of time he has to file an appeal. In this case the file will be turned over to a higher court.

This is followed by the signature of the judge and the witnesses.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct]

[Figueroa] No, I am not afraid. I am not afraid because my decision was based on the evidence presented during the trial. I am not afraid someone will do something to me because, first of all, I acted according to the law; second, the appropriate legal procedures were followed; third, I always [words indistinct] heart. I am not afraid of anything and, if something does happen to me, well, that is my destiny. I am not afraid.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Figueroa] He has every right to defend Noel de Jesus Beteta because he is his client, but no favorable evidence was presented during the trial.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Figueroa] No, I have not received threats and no pressure was exerted by any organization, the defendant, or the accuser, no one.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Figueroa] The witnesses gave the evidence. In addition, Noel de Jesus Beteta Alvarez did not prove he [words indistinct] finger and why he went to the United States after [words indistinct] finger was immobilized.

[Reporter] Were there any contradictions in the defense's [words indistinct] during the trial?

[Figueroa] By whom?

[Reporter] Noel de Jesus Beteta.

[Figueroa] They presented no evidence. There was no evidence. All the evidence was provided by the prosecutor and the accuser, Helen Mack.

[Reporter] Isn't it strange that the defense presented no evidence against the charges?

[Figueroa] No evidence was presented during the period allotted for this.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Figueroa] This is not a definite sentence because the public prosecutor, Noel de Jesus Beteta, and Helen Mack can appeal the sentence, either the overall sentence or

certain points on which they disagree. If an appeal is made, a court must decide whether it accepts or rejects the appeal. The case is then turned over to a higher court and the court must analyze the case. If any of them disagrees with the court's decision, they still have the right to request an annulment.

[Reporter] Considering that you have been a judge for quite some time, has this been the most difficult case you have handled?

[Figueroa] No. There have been some truly difficult cases. I have worked in Escuintla and Coatepeque, where this type of crime occurs frequently. All are difficult but the difference is some get more publicity than others. Frankly, some crimes are quite terrible, yet they get no publicity.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Figueroa] This was stated by the Human Rights Ombudsman because Noel de Jesus Beteta worked on the president's staff. I found no reason to [words indistinct] military court because there was no evidence on which I could base my decision. The Human Rights Ombudsman's report said the state was responsible, but he failed to give names. As long as he does not give the names [words indistinct] people who are directly responsible for this.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] maximum sentence applicable?

[Figueroa] The maximum sentence for murder is death but, based on the available evidence, I did not think the death sentence was applicable in this case. I certainly thought a 25-year sentence was applicable, plus the five-year sentence for injuries makes it 30 years. The sentence against one person cannot exceed 30 years, according to Guatemala's legal code.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Figueroa] No. For the time being no.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Figueroa] Well, he must give specific names because the investigation....[pauses] I cannot leave the case open if I do not have enough evidence; otherwise, I would be responsible for this. I have to base my decision on something to leave the case open. If I do not base it on something specific, meaning the names of those directly involved, I cannot do it. Like I said, these men were members of the president's staff. The Human Rights Ombudsman has stated they were security force members. He must specifically say who was directly involved.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Figueroa] This has to be analyzed because a superior cannot send one of his subordinates to perpetrate a crime. I am not saying they did it or that they did not do it. I have simply based my decision on this line of

reasoning because that is what must be done. If any one disagrees with my decision, they can take the appropriate action. That is what I saw, that is what I believed, and that is what I decided. [end recording]

Death Threats Said Made Against Politicians

PA1302042393 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO
in Spanish 11 Feb 93 p 4

[Text] Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo, secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party, reported on 10 February that all of the political delegates who traveled to Mexico last week to meet with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] leaders have been threatened with death by groups interested in undermining the peace process and creating unrest in the Army.

Cabrera repudiated the speculation about the talks between politicians and guerrillas because, he said, "we never went there to conduct any negotiations, much less to discuss the Army." The speculation, he said, "is senseless, not serious, irrational, absurd, and ridiculous. It is full of bad will and ignorance and conceals dark purposes."

The leader condemned the threats "because these threats, which were supposedly a thing of the past in Guatemala, have exacted a high price in terror, blood, and grief."

"I am not afraid, because I faced difficult situations in the time of violence and am prepared for whatever may come my way," he said. As far as he is concerned, he said, he will continue to attend the meetings with the URNG as necessary.

He also said that all of the rumors saying the politicians went to Mexico to negotiate the Army reduction and purge are only speculation made in bad faith to cause concern in the Army. He attributes the threats and speculation to "irresponsible groups," which he did not want to name but which he thinks "do not want modernization and change."

This shows that the purpose is to stop the peace process and democratization, because these actions are a direct attack on the peace negotiations. Cabrera said the political delegation at no time started any negotiations because there is a government peace commission, formed by civilians and soldiers, that will negotiate the peace agreements. There is no alternate mechanism for negotiations. "We are just following up the Escorial talks, where the political parties signed with URNG an agreement on constitutional reforms, a topic only broadly outlined in the document the rebels presented to the government."

The idea is to establish mechanisms to discuss constitutional reform, a discussion that entails a long and complex process that should not depend on government-URNG negotiations because the subject involves many parties in addition to those in conflict.

The politicians told URNG that President Serrano's peace proposal, presented at the United Nations, "enjoys local and international support and carries with it good will, seriousness, and good faith."

Cabrera said he was accompanied by Congress President Jose Fernando Lobo; Deputy Vinicio Villar, president of the foreign relations commission, and Gustavo Figueroa and Alfonso Portillo, the leaders of his party.

As for the presence of Edmundo Mulet, Union of the National Center leader, who has been appointed ambassador to Washington, Cabrera said Mulet was invited by the guerrilla commanders.

'Army Officers' Issue Bulletins Accusing Officials

PA1302040693 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 12 Feb 93 p 4

[Text] Spurious bulletins circulated by the self-styled "Army Officers" contain accusations against military corps commanders, government officials, and political groups.

The warnings in two communiques are compounded by the obituaries recently received by several Christian Democratic Party leaders who met with Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] leaders last week in Mexico.

They state: "How can they negotiate Army issues when we are the ones who, during our long trips to remote towns, have seen their political ineptitude and who have been singled out for allegedly supporting an inefficient and corrupt narcopolitical triad? They are acting like the dog that bites the hand that feeds it."

For example, the alleged officers state: "We were astonished to see the rebel armed groups' interests converge with the interests of that nefarious political class, the Catholic Church, and pro-URNG groups. The goal is to carry out a constitutional reform that grants exclusive rights to the monopoly of power resulting from this type of alliance by invoking a false concept of civilian government supremacy."

They ask: "What is the essence of that alleged supremacy of the civilian government and of that political stubbornness and need in connection with the much longed for reforms negotiated in Mexico?" They answer: "First of all the liquidation of the state's conscience and the defense of the country's honor, sovereignty, integrity, and safety; and, second, the imposition of the ruling political class' reelection and mandate through a partisan oligopoly."

The bulletin states that "the distribution of quotas of power through influence peddling, blackmail, and political mercantilism have abounded under the president's regime, thus covering up illegal deals and criminal ties and strengthening the regime of impunity that prevails in

a partisan monopoly. No every effort will be made to establish permanently the rule of corruption, arrogance, blackmail, and crime."

The clandestine communique warns: "All bad things must come to an end. On this occasion we anticipate any cunning actions and we have chosen the principal traitors of that nauseating political class, to whom we have sent a separate message."

The communique continues: "We will allow no one, under any specious argument, to continue offending the nation's dignity and betraying the interests of the country and the Guatemalan Army to small subversive groups. We also warn that we have been very tolerant and flexible with the president's fits of rage, messianic fantasies, and spontaneous and dangerous decisions."

The officers emphasize: "Furthermore, we will not tolerate his spurious conduct, nor that of his weak allies, because the homeland must be saved. We reassert our pledge to continue defeating the terrorist enemy and to eliminate the traitors who hide behind legal facades."

The final part of one of the bulletins reads: "Traitors should know our patience has reached its limit, and we have a reason that will justify our immediate actions," which certain politicians have interpreted as the announcement of a coup d'etat or a threat against President Serrano.

Government Establishes Relations With Estonia

PA1402041393 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 12 Feb 93 p 31

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry has reported that the Guatemalan Government has established relations with the Government of Estonia.

Foreign Ministry sources said that these relations were formally initiated on 3 February with the issuance of a joint declaration signed at the Guatemalan diplomatic mission at the United Nations in New York City.

The declaration states that the two governments want to strengthen relations of friendship and cooperation in the framework of the UN Charter. [passage omitted]

Honduras

Trujillo Diocese on 'Threat' of Military Structure

PA1602044693 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Feb 93 p 3a

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The Diocese of Trujillo reported on 13 February that the Honduran military structure "has become a threat to civilian society, which it is supposed to protect" and demanded an Armed Forces reduction.

At the end of the seventh annual assembly, the Diocese of Trujillo issued a statement on the pastoral standing of

the Departments of Colon and Gracias a Dios and the Olanchito sector in Yoro Department.

"We want to take a stand on the country's situation of violence over the past few months because we look with concern at the spiral of violence that is leading us to situations that make fraternal living, as God planned, impossible," the statement read.

The document added that "this concern increases because those who are in charge of ensuring respect of the laws are the main violators, which can be seen in the continuous media reports."

"We consider that one of the main causes of this spiral of violence is military impunity and an inefficient and corrupt judicial branch, such as a recent U.S. State Department document report regarding human rights in Honduras that which emphasizes the incapacity of the judicial branch to bring to civilian justice the members of the military involved in crimes against civilians," the document reads.

The pronouncement read that "despite the fact that we live in a world where conflicts are no longer resolved by the force of weapons, but by dialogue and respect for others, a military structure is still being encouraged that is too large for the new mission it has and has become a threat to civilian society, which it is supposed to protect."

The document states that "our country has been turned into a drug-trafficking bridge, and in many cases with help from members of the military, as the latest events show, thus creating situations of crime and violence."

The Diocese of Trujillo calls on the Honduran people to take a stand against violence and impunity "and to demand that military power submit itself to civilian power in strict respect for popular sovereignty."

"We demand a reduction in the current military structure because we consider that our people are poor and that the resources earmarked for an Army, unreasonably large in times of dialogue, should be directed to the sectors of health, education, and housing," the document read.

Likewise, the document asked that "the traditional method of recruiting our youth, which has become a true manhunt, be humanized, which only affects poor youths from the countryside and the city."

The diocese also requests that the type of training given in the garrisons be reviewed "because current training is based on insult, physical and psychological mistreatment, and exploitation of the young recruit."

Lastly, it demands that President Callejas review the current economic adjustment plan, "because it generates poverty and violence and is inspired by the concept of degrading mankind, which is only perceived as a source of wealth."

Nicaragua

Chamorro, Mexico's Salinas Discuss Relations

PA1402222293 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1726 GMT 13 Feb 93

[News conference by Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and President Violeta Chamorro with unidentified moderator and foreign and domestic reporters at the Presidential Palace in Managua—live]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] Before starting the news conference, the president of Mexico will say a few words to the foreign and domestic media.

[Salinas] I would like to thank Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro for her hospitality and especially the Nicaraguan people for the warmth with which they always welcome Mexicans.

This visit to Nicaragua marks the end of an intense working tour that permitted us to strengthen the relations between Mexico and Latin America.

First, the meeting of the Group of Three [G-3] between Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico permitted us to confirm that on 1 January 1994 the free trade agreement between these three nations will be a reality. This confirms once more that integration is becoming a reality, as we begin to put solid bricks derived from the free trade agreement to that great building of integration. Second, the talks between the G-3 and the heads of state of Central American countries confirmed what had been built since the meeting in Tuxtla Gutierrez in early 1991, when we reached a basic cooperation agreement between Mexico and Central America. Now, Venezuela and Colombia have reached a basic cooperation agreement with Central America.

Concerning relations between Mexico and Central America, we proposed and offered since 12 February a substantial 50 percent reduction in the tariffs paid by Central American exports to enter the Mexican market. This measure also consists of automatically extending the lowest tariff paid by any Central American nation to enter the Mexican market to other Central American countries. Mexico made an additional contribution to the Central American Integration Bank [BCIE] totaling \$100 million. This will make immediate resources available to finance infrastructure and development projects in the region.

Finally, in the specific case of relations with Nicaragua, the seven agreements signed on 13 February show that we are turning political will into political reality. We have reached accords in various aspects of our relations, thereby strengthening the ties between the peoples. These ties have always been warm, as they are based on deep historical roots. The government to government relations consolidate a political relationship of brotherhood, friendship, and fraternity.

I want to state that of the two basic agreements reached on 12 February between Mexico and Central America, the agreement dealing with the reduction in tariffs will benefit Nicaragua the most. From now on, the average tariff that Nicaraguan exports will pay in the Mexican market will be equal to only 4 percent. Second, in addition to the \$100 million Mexico contributed to the BCIE—which immediately opened credit lines for more than \$20 million for Nicaragua—Mexico responded positively to Nicaragua's request to obtain a stopgap loan through the Inter-American Development Bank. Nicaragua had requested \$45 million from the G-3 member countries, and Mexico already provided its \$15 million, which are available for Nicaraguan producers and exporters. During the talks held in Caracas, the presidents of Colombia and Venezuela also promised to contribute their share. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro would also like to make a statement.

[Chamorro] I thank my dear President Salinas. I thank all members of his delegation for coming to Nicaragua. I feel the Virgin of Guadalupe, as a Catholic, has illuminated all of you to set your sights on Nicaragua, show so much fraternity and solidarity, and sign agreements to rebuild our fatherland. Deeds such as these will not be forgotten and will forever remain in the hearts of Nicaraguans.

It pleases me to see so many reporters here to report to the world what we are now doing, to report about the document that, you, my dear President, are signing for the Nicaraguan people. It will be useful and honest as it should be, as it always has been.

I do not wish to say much more because time is limited. I also received expressions of solidarity in Caracas from the G-3. I do not know whether you know about a document signed by all Central American presidents, G-3 presidents, that is, the presidents of Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela, requesting support for Violeta Chamorro and the Nicaraguan people. This document will be sent to President Clinton.

I do not think everyone does things such as this. They do happen, however. Latin Americans are doing this, especially during these times. All Central Americans have met to establish a single fraternal unit. It is not an issue of equality but of helping each other.

[Words indistinct] the letter—I promised never to lose hope—it will be good for the Nicaraguan people perhaps now with the assurances of all Central Americans and the G-3. God will see to that. I repeat: I thank you very much, my dear Mexican friends, who accompanied the president; thank you for your solidarity and the aid you will give us, because my government—although it is claimed we are not politicians—is learning many things.

We want to change this fatherland. What is the main change for me, my dear President? It was not talking about budgets or other issues, but peace, reconciliation

among all Nicaraguans, disarmament, and continuation of the disarmament process and continued urging, through the media, for the men in northern Nicaragua to lay down their arms and reach an understanding through dialogue, because I think dialogue is an essential tool and not a weapon.

I will say it again, in case you do not yet know: I am an enemy of weapons. I want peace and unity for my fatherland. Unity makes might. I say again [words indistinct] to political parties and all Nicaraguans that it is never late to unite because it is embarrassing to show a disunited country to all friendly presidents and other friends who help us. What do we want, rebuild our fatherland in liberty and democracy? We have a budding democracy that has lasted three years and four months. This goal will not be lost in democracy; I will not budge.

Thus, my dear President, thank you for accompanying me on the plane on 12 February; thank you for your advice, thank you for your solidarity. I hope to see you soon because Nicaragua and Mexico are sister nations. Thank you. [applause]

[Moderator] We have little time for the news conference so only a few questions will be answered. I will now give the floor to the Mexican media. Emilio Lomas of LA JORNADA.

[Lomas] President Salinas, within the framework that you proposed [words indistinct] Mexican presidents, how will you complement these changes and what is their purpose, as apparently the resources required for implementing these actions are not arriving in a timely fashion?

[Salinas] The changes that are being promoted are indeed leading to Latin American integration. I have insisted that the integration process of Latin America was exhausted by rhetoric and our people demand results, results that are reflected in an improvement of their standards of living and greater opportunities. This is what we are working on. We are trying to move toward integration between Mexico and Central America and the G-3 and Central America so as to make this relationship a strategic reason for Mexico.

Given that our country shares borders with Central America, we deem it very important for Central America to consolidate its peace process. The only way to achieve this is through sustainable development. Hence, Mexicans are committed to opening our markets to Central American products. This market opening will take place within the framework of [words indistinct] after a free trade agreement is reached. This will permit us to substantially reduce northward migration from Central America, namely Mexico and on many occasions the United States.

In addition to free trade, actions are being taken to supply financial resources to the region. I want to tell you that the \$100 million we contributed to the BCIE on 12 February will make resources available to finance

exports from the region to Mexico, for example. The \$20 million earmarked for Nicaragua is 10 times the value of Nicaraguan exports to Mexico. Therefore, there is an opportunity to increase exchange through the availability of financial resources to promote trade and investment and infrastructure projects in Central American countries.

By the way, to make sure that the resources get to their destination, we met on the morning of 13 February with Nicaraguan businessmen, who said they—particularly those involved in meat production in Nicaragua—were interested in receiving the financial resources directly. The agreement we reached with them will enable them, through the National Bank here in Nicaragua, to finance the transformation of production activities and cattle processing centers. This will lead to greater efficiency and capacity to enter international markets. This is a practical example of the results of these discussions. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Miguel Reyes [word indistinct] of EXCELSIOR.

[Reyes] Thank you very much. President Violeta Chamorro, you just explained that [words indistinct] but are learning and called for a truce between political parties in this country. What is the state of the negotiations. Do you think there is a conspiracy by the forces operating against your government?

Since you spoke of the advice received and long conversation held with President Salinas, who you repeatedly called your friend, to what degree do these recommendations have to do with harmony and peace here in Nicaragua?

[Chamorro] To begin with the last part, I think that experienced presidents have greater expertise than a rookie president. I consulted President Salinas and President Carlos Andres Perez to gain experience and to learn. I do not mind saying I am learning. [words indistinct] say things. What was your other question?

[Reyes] Since you spoke of the unity and harmony you requested from the politicians of your country, are there destabilization attempts or plots against your administration?

[Chamorro] My friend, I always say that because we are just starting to live in a democracy all Nicaraguans do not think the same. John Doe will not think what we are thinking now. Reconciliation has cost us a great deal. We have to move toward reconciliation, peace, and forgiveness in this country, just as is happening in the USSR [as heard] and other socialist countries. These countries became divided and later embraced. This is what I want for Nicaragua: to rebuild our fatherland in peace, reconciliation, and unity.

In addition to receiving good advice [words indistinct] Nicaragua will be totally independent from receiving

\$50 and \$100 million, for which I thank you. Here in Nicaragua, Nicaraguans must learn to work.

I want to point out one thing: We have lived under a dictatorship and a Marxist-Leninist ideology. For me, this was absurd and obsolete. We have to teach people, as we are doing now, that their products or crops belong to them. There are no longer controls. There is freedom here, freedom of expression. I would like you to ask how many television stations there are in Nicaragua, how many journalists there are. There is even a radio station for women. There are several things that we did not have before. How can we have everyone think the same way? This is impossible. But as president, I always ask for the unity of all Nicaraguans.

[Moderator] Rosemary Torton, [words indistinct].

[Torton] President Salinas de Gortari, you have been able to meet briefly with the country's political forces. How do you view the situation?

[Salinas] We Mexicans respect the people's right to self-determination and the domestic decisions of all the nations. The discussions I have held have been in response to the request by these political forces to be informed about the progress we are making with the Nicaraguan Government and about the strengthening of relations between Mexico and this grand nation.

When we Mexicans engage in dialogue, we speak about our own experiences. Our point of view—and this is the only thought about another nation that I have expressed publicly—is that Nicaragua has an asset that enjoys much international respect and prestige. This asset is Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. This is how we envisage her, with much respect.

[Moderator] [name indistinct] from EL HERALDO.

[EL HERALDO reporter] Mr. President, do you acknowledge that a revolution could grow tired and weary [words indistinct] a revolution that does not produce well-being? You said that you would not give up. What won't you give up? You said that you would not give up. What were you referring too?

[Chamorro] Give up means abandoning my activities and going home. The people of Nicaragua elected me by secret-ballot elections supervised by the United Nations, the kind of elections we had not had in Nicaragua for years. There were many candidates. I could tell you a long story. There were many candidates, but the people elected me. I have the moral obligation to work for the people. I consult friends, presidents and not presidents. [words indistinct] are useful for the fatherland, but without meddling in other people's affairs. No. This would be similar to you being at home talking with your wife and friends, having a drink, and listening to advice and ideas.

[Salinas] To answer your question: Revolutions can and should reform themselves. This is the experience that we Mexicans have. Revolutions can reform themselves

without abandoning their principles by modifying procedures and acknowledging the fact that circumstances change, thus being able to continue working toward the grand objectives they must reach: the strengthening of sovereignty and the promotion of liberty, justice, and democracy. [passage omitted]

Godoy Says Bolivia Not To Extradite Ibarra

PA1402040493 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Vice President Virgilio Godoy says Antonio Ibarra will not be extradited by the Bolivian Government. Godoy said Bolivia will instead deport Ibarra to the United States because he is a citizen of that country. Several committees of U.S. senators and congressmen are interested in hearing what Ibarra has to say about serious matters such as drug trafficking.

Early in February the attorney general charged Ibarra with embezzling \$1 million from the Fund for the Care of the Oppressed. Ibarra then accused Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo of a number of crimes. Ibarra, former deputy Presidency minister, accused Lacayo of involvement in the assassination of contra leader Enrique Bermudez in Managua in February 1992. Ibarra said Lacayo is also involved in drug trafficking with the Medellin Cartel, but Lacayo has refused to answer these charges because he says the world should be based on realities rather than opinions. Lacayo has said that if Ibarra is sent to the United States, the Nicaraguan Government will ask the U.S. Government to extradite him so Ibarra can answer charges before Nicaraguan authorities, although Nicaragua does not have an extradition treaty with the United States.

Aeroflot Office Destruction Said Not Terrorist Act

PA1302161893 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Feb 93 pp 1, 16

[Report by Maria Elena Palacios]

[Text] The Plaza Espana Corporation has denied that the destruction of the facade of the Aeroflot Airline office building was a terrorist act and said that this was done with the full agreement of all the condominium occupants in view of the fact that the construction work altered the property deed and had been carried out without permission of the building's general board of owners.

Marcelo Lacayo Fonseca, general manager of the corporation that manages the building, told LA PRENSA that the building is registered under horizontal property laws, which forbid construction work on communal property such as sidewalks, parking areas, gardens, and so forth.

"The Aeroflot gentlemen had begun to build an overhang with seven columns plus an earthquake-proof column on the sidewalk to their office, part of which is for communal use by the condominium. This was

despite having been warned that they could not build because it was against the law," Lacayo said.

The Plaza Espana building is a condominium with 14 co-owners, which includes the corporation that also manages the building. In 1982, Aeroflot purchased module B-17, where their offices are located, and on 4 April they purchased the 42-meter sidewalk.

Lacayo said this sidewalk purchase was illegal. "It appears that Alfredo Bustos, the corporation manager at the time, sold the sidewalk to the Russians solely based on board minutes no. seven. In fact, this document makes no reference to any sale, therefore the sale is illegal," he explained.

Lacayo added that on 12 December Aeroflot sent a letter to the corporation to report they intended to do the construction, "but I replied that the area was a communal pedestrian walk; therefore, they could not build and their money could be returned," he said.

On 6 January the Urban Development Directorate, under architect Lucy Salas, sent a letter to Dr. Juan Alvaro Munguia, secretary of the corporation's board of directors, to inform him that the Aeroflot construction had been halted until the legality was established.

"Despite all this, the Aeroflot gentlemen continued the construction. The corporation, in agreement with all the condominium owners, decided to destroy it because it violates the agreement with the general board of owners and because the purchase was illegal," Lacayo said.

Lastly, Lacayo said that "if the Russian gentlemen want to make a claim they should do so through the courts."

Aeroflot General Manager Vladimir Stoupine claims that the airline owns both the office and the sidewalk, "because we purchased the pathway in 1990 and the purchase is officially registered."

"We obtained a building permit from the Urban Development Directorate. At no time have we broken the law because all our actions are legal. The corporation confirms they carried out the destruction without having presented documents denying the property is ours," the Aeroflot official said.

He said that the affair is in the hands of legal specialists and a decision is expected soon. Lastly, he said that the airline will continue to offer the Nicaraguan people improved services and announced that they will increase their weekly flights to Cuba and in March will fly to Panama.

Recontras Receiving Supplies From Abroad Confirmed

PA1402171193 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Colonel Javier Carrion, deputy chief of staff of the Sandinist Army, has confirmed that the recontras operating in northern Nicaragua are receiving supplies by air

from abroad. Col. Carrion told the press that the Army has not been able to determine the origin of the supplies.

Since December 1992, armed clashes have taken a toll of nearly 100 dead recontras, about 100 wounded, and scores of arrested men. It is true that they are receiving supplies from abroad, but this does not mean a permanent and continuous support, Col. Carrion said.

On 6 February, Army Spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock said that the rebels are not receiving any logistic support from foreign armies but that they receive support from politicians who live in Managua.

The rebels must be receiving communications equipment and weapons from abroad, Col. Carrion said, adding that these groups have their camps inside Nicaragua. Carrion said that Army intelligence is investigating to determine where the planes that supply the recontras are taking off. Col. Carrion also reported that the Army has clashed with the recontras on two occasions in recent days.

Human Rights Association Airs Complaints

PA1302233093 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish
2200 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] This is the text of a note that the Nicaraguan Human Rights Association has sent to us:

We hereby request your usual cooperation in defending the people's rights by airing the following complaints against National Police members who systematically violate human rights. Here are the specific cases.

Enrique Salgado Espinosa, born in San Jeronimo, Esteli Department, was captured on 9 January and has been held in custody for 25 days without being turned over to the proper authorities. Salgado, who has been accused of collaborating with the Nicaraguan Resistance, was tortured by Sandinist People's Army (EPS) members who broke his upper incisors. Salgado said he is an epileptic.

Jose Rodolfo Castillo Torres, who was on parole, was arrested by four policemen in Esteli on 7 February and brutally beaten. His wife, Maria de los Angeles Ramirez Medina, was arrested and mistreated also, but she was released and has already filed a complaint at the Esteli office of the Human Rights Association.

The Human Rights Association would greatly appreciate it if the station would call Donald Martinez Alvarez. According to a fax sent to us by the Nicaraguan Consulate in Honduras, Martinez' wife, Rosa Maria Cabrera, lives in Honduras and is trying to locate her husband. We ask that he please get in touch with the Nicaraguan Human Rights Association.

[Signed] Violeta de Sandino, deputy director.

Workers' Congress To Sever Links With APO

PA1302152793 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 12 Feb 93 p 8

[Text] The Permanent Workers' Congress (CPT) decided to sever its links with the APO [Political Opposition Alliance] because the deputies of that "cut up" former coalition had intended to manipulate the workers to promote their own personal interests. In addition, the CPT decided on 11 February to appoint Deputy Roberto Moreno Cajina as its national coordinator.

In a public document—after having carried out internal meetings for several days—the CPT decided to strongly reject and repudiate the ill-intended campaign launched by the APO against the CPT leaders whom the cesarists [Alfredo Cesar supporters] accuse of having "sold out to the government" in exchange for cars and elegant houses.

CPT Reaffirms Its Independence

During the same meeting, the CPT reaffirmed its independence from the APO and authorized its executive committee to urgently search for solutions to the conflicts beleaguering the relationship between each union confederation.

The fourth point of the CPT resolution announces the appointment of Mr. Roberto Moreno Cajina as coordinator general for the next six months. Mr. Cajina is currently president of the National Assembly Labor Commission. Other appointments include Mario Casco Lanzas as secretary; Antonio Jarquin Rodriguez, national coordinator in charge of political training national; Julio Paladino Carballo as information and media national coordinator; Jose Espinoza Navas as agrarian affairs coordinator.

Appointments Ratified

The CPT leadership and its grass roots ratified the appointment (by means of an election) of Deputy Roberto Moreno as president of [National Assembly] labor commission. This legislative commission will be meeting at the National Assembly during the morning hours of 15 February to prepare the agenda of meetings it plans to carry out related to the future labor code.

On 11 February, the CPT leadership met with the APO to officially announce its opposition, and at the same time stated that it would not tolerate any manipulation of workers' interests. During the current week when the National Assembly was preparing to discuss a report on the future labor code, the APO decided to walk out of the assembly. The maneuver did not work, however, since they are now the minority in parliament.

*** Devaluation Affects Cattle Industry**

93CA0058E Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Jan 93 p 10

[Commentary by Fernando Sequeira]

[Text] It is said that, asked his opinion as to the perfection of the universe, King Alfonso X of Leon and Castilla, known as "the Wise" because of his vast erudition and culture, replied: "Had I been present at the time of its creation, I would have had a few suggestions to offer to its Creator." It comes as no surprise, therefore, that some may seek to don the cloak of Don Alfonso and add, delete, or change something in the package of measures passed by the government, which measures—given the current conditions—could hardly have been better.

Doubts and questions continue in abundance, of course. For example: Why could the government not have waited a little longer (April) to devalue? Will the beneficial effects of the devaluation still be around when the farmer has to decide what and how much to plant? Or was it the specific intent that the farmer come out of this harvest with a slight profit and hence more optimistic with respect to the next one? Will it be necessary to devalue again by April or May so as to stimulate the producer again around that time? Does devaluation indeed stimulate exports?

And while it is true that the first four of these questions can only be answered speculatively at best, the answer to the last one is an emphatic yes. But let us see what is really occurring in the particular case of the cattle industry, which is what interests us at this time.

Nicaraguan cattle raising is fundamentally a dual-purpose industry (the cow is milked leaving it with enough milk to feed the calf that will eventually be taken to the slaughterhouse). In simplistic terms, the industry's total production can be broken down as follows: one-third milk for strictly local consumption; one-third meat also for local consumption; and one-third meat for export. It follows that any benefit affecting exports will be benefiting only a third of total cattle production. On the other hand, the "anti-benefits" (many of the costs of the industry's raw materials will rise) affect 100 percent of its production. And, weighing the positive versus the negative effects, the net result of the devaluation, for the cattle industry as a whole, can be likened to increasing the industry's net value by not more than a mere five percent.

And this five percent assumes that the slaughterhouses pass the total benefit of the devaluation to the cattle raisers—an assumption that quickly vanishes, as we shall see, when the slaughterhouses slyly reduce the prices of cattle, shrewdly invoking a drop in the international price of our meat (or any other fallacious pretext), or simply not revealing the international price increments to which our product is subject. Take note, cattlemen, and prepare for another "slaughterhouse axing"!

We employ this simplistic analysis of the effects of the devaluation on the cattle industry not as a criticism of the government (as we said at the start and we repeat now, there was no better way for the government to do it), but so as to know and make known where we stand, lest some think that with these measures the cattle industry will be on its way to recovery and that we can sleep on laurels that we have not even won yet.

Let us return to the mention we made of the cattle industry as a dual-purpose activity, and cast further light on this subject, given its determinative bearing on the sector.

For the cattleman, this dual-purpose approach is a despairing method of coping with the lack of working capital, which the banks have never provided to the cattle-raising industry. Thus, to be able to halfway weed his pastures, halfway repair fences, pay squalid wages, purchase the most basic veterinary products, replace packsaddles, pay taxes to the Ministry of Finance and to the mayoralties, the police, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, and so on and on, the cattleman is compelled to draw a small amount of milk from his cows, which, through its daily sale, will help to cover these expenses. This help is supplemented by decapitalizing his business through the sale of substantial numbers of his breeding animals.

As a result, the cattleman produces neither a good calf (undernourished and poorly developed for lack of milk), nor an adequate quantity of milk. That calf, at weaning, is worth 500 instead of 800 [currency not specified], with barely two liters of milk having been extracted for its daily nourishment instead of the required seven. And this produces further impacts: 1) That undernourished calf takes another four years, after weaning, to reach the slaughterhouse, instead of the two it would take if it had had the benefit of all its mother's milk; and 2) the milk obtained is hygienically of the poorest quality. The bottom line is that the cattleman and the country both fail to perceive the fruits of a well-managed cattle industry.

Now that the United States is clearing us of the "borer-worm fly," it is time for us to start thinking of producing export-quality calves. After all, in the production of calves that throughout the world are produced on the basis of fodder, Nicaragua has some comparative advantages. Not so, however, when it comes to fattening those calves for slaughter, since that is done most efficiently on the basis of grain, which we are unable to produce in sufficient quantity.

Florida itself, for example, sends its entire production of calves to feed-lots in the grain-producing center of the United States. The Mexicans do likewise. They export 1.2 million calves to the United States annually. And this is not owing to the distance factor, but rather to the quality of the calves they produce.

On this topic we shall write more later. The message for this time is that the cattle industry has much to contribute if it can but have, at the very least, the interest and cooperation it needs on the part of the government. But what is lacking from this standpoint is a capable and duly empowered authority dedicated to the common good of all the cattlemen.

Panama

Endara Comments on EC Decision on Banana Imports

PA1402212193 Panama City Circuito RPC Television
in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] President Guillermo Endara has returned to Panama following a two-day visit to Ecuador and Venezuela. In Guayaquil, Ecuador, the president met with the presidents of the banana producing countries to discuss the situation in view of the EC decision to impose restrictions on banana imports. European agriculture ministers met on 12 February in Brussels and reached an agreement on this issue that concerns the Latin American banana producing countries.

[Begin Endara recording] The Europeans are mistreating us with such a basic product as bananas. I think that they do not have the slightest idea of the harm they are causing to our countries, and what is worse, the harm they are causing to thousands upon thousands of families who depend on bananas for their survival. I cannot believe they are so cruel. I will await the reaction of my colleagues. [end recording]

The EC decision must now be taken to the council of foreign ministers. Endara said that although he hopes they will be more merciful the situation is difficult and the EC is provoking the banana producing countries who seek free trade. Within his tour, the president met in Caracas, Venezuela, with the Group of Three to discuss a possible free trade treaty.

[Begin recording] [Endara] Panama did not participate in those treaties because we actually are not prepared for them. We Panamanians first have to study and discuss it before we reach an agreement to that effect.

[Unidentified speaker] Observers.

[Endara] Ah, yes. It was agreed that they would always invite us to attend as observers, hoping that someday we will join. I must say that the Central American countries, Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela were very receptive to the Panamanian stand and they were also very understanding. [end recording]

Endara Asks Ecuador To Extend Asylum to Exiles

PA1502170593 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA
in Spanish 14 Feb 93 p 1a

[Report by Orlando Mendieta]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara asked the Ecuadoran Foreign Relations Ministry to extend the asylum granted to at least seven Panamanians who were linked to the previous regime. Endara said he gave the exiles "a large sum of money" to cover personal expenses.

President Endara made this statement at a news conference on 13 February upon his arrival from Ecuador and Venezuela where he attended a presidential summit of Latin American banana producing countries and a presidential summit of the Group of Three and Central America, respectively.

The president said Luis Gaspar "Toti" Suarez, spokesman for the exiles in Ecuador, asked him privately, after a meeting between Endara and the exiles, to intercede on their behalf to extend their asylum in Ecuador, which expired on 12 February. Endara added Suarez also asked him for money because the exiles are facing a precarious economic situation.

"Perhaps I will say more than I should but I will tell you about two favors the exiles asked from me to give you an idea of the relationship we established between presidents, ministers, and them," President Endara told the reporters in reference to Suarez' requests.

Endara said he asked the Ecuadoran foreign minister for an extension of the asylum status of members of the previous regime before the other Latin American foreign ministers during a farewell luncheon offered by that country to the presidents who attended the summit.

The president added that this public request caused an impression among the other foreign ministers who said this was the first time they had seen anything like this.

As for the money he gave the exiles, Endara said Suarez told him the exiles had to incur many expenses to travel to Guayaquil, and thus, their economic situation was precarious.

In this regard, Endara said: "I was an exile and know about the suffering caused by lack of money, and thus, I gave them a large sum of money." The president added: "I think these two actions are unique in the history of exiles."

As for their legal status, Endara told the exiles he could not speak on behalf of or assume responsibility for the actions of the judicial branch regarding their situation in Panama.

Legislators Approve 14 ARI Articles

PA1302135693 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA
in Spanish 12 Feb 93 p 8c

[Report by Eduardo Soto]

[Text] The 14 most "significant and controversial" articles of the draft bill establishing the Inter-oceanic Region

Authority (ARI) were approved on 11 February during its second debate and, for the first time, in record-breaking time.

After 10 hours of uninterrupted discussions in a single session, the majority of the 47 legislators who participated in the assembly debate approved Articles 6 through 19 of the aforementioned bill.

Twenty-seven proposals related to the 14 articles were discussed at length. At the end, each proposal corresponding to each article discussed was finally adopted.

Even though the assembly plenum had agreed to discuss the 14 articles as a single package, the voting was carried out article by article.

Article 6 of the bill discussed during the extraordinary sessions specifies that the ARI will be managed by a board of directors as the highest decisionmaking body. The board of directors will be assigned duties by law.

According to this same article, constitutional and legal norms regulating an administrative career will be applied when appointing all ARI personnel.

Article 7 points out that the board of directors will consist of nine members selected by the Executive Branch and subject to ratification by a minimum of two-thirds of the Legislative Assembly members.

It has also been specified that the directors will be not allowed to exercise their duties until they are ratified by the assembly. They also will not be allowed to run for election to public office.

Article 7 specifies that "Directors will exercise said position for a period of five years, which can be extended for only one more additional term. In such instances they must be ratified again by the Assembly".

There were no clashes during the 11 February session as had occurred on previous occasions and, for the first time, the majority of the legislators were present during the discussions.

PRD Legislators Modify ARI Debate Strategy

PA1302231093 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA
in Spanish 13 Feb 93 p 16b

[Report by Eduardo Soto]

[Text] Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD) legislators acknowledged on 12 February that they had modified their strategy with respect to participating in the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI) debates. According to Legislator Alberto Aleman Boyd, "our party feels it can improve the bill."

During the past week the PRD was accused of "boycotting" the ARI bill debates by resorting to lengthy speeches and repetitive arguments.

With the start of debates surrounding the second group of articles, government legislators acknowledged that the PRD had given clear evidence of "its willingness" to discuss the bill proposal, and some of the party's suggestions were even supported and approved in the second debate.

According to Aleman Boyd, the PRD has some very "well-informed" party members who participated in the Torrijos-Carter treaty negotiations. Aleman Boyd also said that the ARI bill is included "in the formulation of those binational agreements".

Legislator and PRD President Gerardo Gonzalez said "the party opted to participate by introducing modifications" that will eventually enrich the debate and improve the bill.

Gonzalez stated that the PRD continues to believe that there is a clear intent to transform the ARI into a real estate agency. He said his bloc will continue to step in to reform the bill proposal and prevent the reverted areas from being sold.

The discussions surrounding the bill proposal will continue at a faster pace if the other blocs accept the PRD suggestions, Gonzalez stated. He also said that will be the only way the debates will continue.

Molirena Announces Start of Election Campaign

PA1502225793 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA
in Spanish 15 Feb 93 p 3-A

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Vice President Guillermo Ford has warned that Dignity Battalion members will have to "put on their long pants" for the 1994 elections if they intend to repeat the incidents of the 1989 elections because "we can dish it out, too."

Ford made these remarks at a recent event in Santa Maria de Herrera during which the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, Molirena, announced the beginning of its electoral campaign and claimed to head the presidential ticket for the forthcoming elections.

"That trash must not believe there will be a repeat of 1989 when they attempted to deceive the people's will," Ford said, predicting a "difficult and complicated" race due to the existence of so many parties.

He added that the Molirena prefers an alliance with the Arnulfista Party, Authentic Liberal Party, and any other party that is decent and respects the Constitution, the law, and human rights.

According to the vice president, the Molirena has a "legitimate right to aspire to the presidency," but he admitted that the other parties also have that right.

Ford also asserted that the Molirena will stay "until the end (with President Guillermo Endara) as long as the party is treated with respect."

He also acknowledged Endara's efforts to maintain the current ruling coalition "at all costs."

Four Additional Coca, Marijuana Plantations Found

*PA1402202293 Panama City Circuito RPC Television
in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Feb 93*

[Text] During the Free Border Operation being conducted in Darien Province, the National Police detected

four additional coca and marijuana plantations, which will be destroyed with other plantations found earlier.

Police Chief Oswaldo Fernandez reported these findings to President Guillermo Endara, who is in Caracas. Endara availed himself of the opportunity to send a message of support and encouragement to the various components of the security groups who are carrying out this special mission in Darien.

Be very careful and prudent, President Endara told the police chief.

Argentina

Memorandum Signed With U.S. on Technology

PY1302013793 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2104 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Feb (NA)—Today the governments of Argentina and the United States, through their representatives Foreign Minister Guido di Tella and U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman, signed a memorandum here of understanding for the transfer and protection of strategic technology, also committing the two governments to avoid the proliferation of massive weapons of destruction.

In this manner the two countries agreed to intensify cooperation in the transfer of strategic products and technological data which "is part of a new relationship in the field of high technology," according to the Argentine foreign minister.

Through the memorandum of understanding, Argentina will have broad access to U.S. export licenses and to a greater exchange of strategic data and products, as well as to the status of purchasing country within the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (Cocom).

The agreement, which was signed in the Golden Hall of San Martin Palace at a ceremony attended by Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo, gives Argentina "free access to the exchange of high technology in strategic products among developed countries."

"For years we have lived in technological isolation and been condemned to backwardness in this field. The situation has changed now, and through the signing of this memorandum we now have access to a free zone of strategic products," Di Tella said.

Both the United States and the remaining members of the Cocom, whose headquarters are located in Paris, have assumed the responsibility to protect strategic technology and avoid the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The agreement between Argentina and the United States tends to intensify the protection and avoid the transfer of strategic products and technological data to destinations proscribed by the Coordinating Committee.

As part of the Cocom policy for third parties, the U.S. Government offers certain benefits in its export licenses to countries establishing effective control systems for exports comparable with those administered by its members.

Once the Cocom determines that the export control system of a country is in keeping with its criteria, it decides whether it is entitled to receive "cooperative status," a position in which Ireland, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, Austria, and New Zealand are found.

In this manner Argentina agrees to establish a license and export system to control the export of technical data and products that comply with the technical specifications.

The U.S. ambassador said that the signing of the agreement represents "enormous satisfaction" given that it allows the two countries "to be among the leaders seeking the enforcement of a peaceful world."

The member countries of the Cocom, which was created following World War II, are: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Chilean Army Major Agrees to Extradition

PY1302022793 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2006 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Feb (NA)—Court sources have reported that Chilean Army Major Alberto Herrera Jimenez, charged in his country with murdering a labor union leader during Augusto Pinochet's military regime, has agreed to his extradition. Herrera Jimenez is currently under arrest in Argentina.

Herrera Jimenez was arrested in January 1992 while trying to enter the country with forged documents, and then placed at the disposal of Federal Judge Martin Irurzun. He was coming from Uruguay.

Herrera Jimenez, a former member of Chilean intelligence, escaped his country under charges of having killed Tucapel Jimenez Alfaro, 53, who was leader of the National Association of Fiscal Employees (Anep). Jimenez Alfaro was killed in 1982 after having been kidnapped. His body was found with five bullet wounds and puncture wounds and cuts on the neck. Herrera Jimenez had also been sentenced by a Chilean military court to 10 years in jail for "unnecessary violence" against Mario Fernandez, a former member of the Christian Democratic Party.

Informed of his arrest in Argentina, the Chilean courts requested his extradition. Judge Irurzun had initially denied the request on the grounds that the charges filed against Herrera Jimenez were of a political nature, the murder having apparently been ordered by the then authorities in central Chilean intelligence.

Brazil

IMF Wants 'Fiscal Shock Treatment' for Brazil

PY1202164993 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Feb 93 Economic Section p 13

[Article by Beatriz Abreu]

[Text] Brasilia—The IMF wants the Brazilian Government to promote a "fiscal shock treatment" to create a surplus of \$24 billion this year in the public accounts. This IMF proposal, which was initially submitted to the Brazilian technical missions, was emphasized during the meeting held by Finance Minister Paulo Haddad with IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus on 9 February in Washington, and yesterday with IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] President Enrique Iglesias.

An economic team member said that if the IMF proposal is strictly followed, President Itamar Franco would be forced to agree to a brutal cut in spending—"the elimination of all subsidies and incentives, including the regional ones, and the worsening of the recession." Haddad rejected the proposal, even considering the IMF's well-studied evaluation that the "fiscal shock treatment" is the choice for balancing the public accounts.

An economic adviser said: "The IMF says Brazil has the second highest inflation rate in the world and only a fiscal shock treatment will be able to stabilize the economy." The economic team believes, however, that the proposal "is politically unfeasible and, from the methodological point of view, questionable." In other words, Haddad and his advisers disagree, based on the elimination of investments and worsening the recession, with the proposal to adjust accounts.

"A surplus of this size would cause a strong recession and an unbearable social tension," said an adviser who defends the fiscal reform as the best for Brazil. According to this adviser, a failure in voting for the fiscal reform in the Senate would cause additional problems in the economy's stabilization. The member of Haddad's team added: "If the reform does not collect the necessary resources, the choice will be to establish a bridge until the Constitution is reviewed without falling into the policy of rice and beans of past governments."

If it is possible to create a surplus of \$24 billion, the problems would disappear said some of the economic advisers. Preliminary calculations indicate that with that money the government could rescue all the Treasury bonds in the hands of the public and still save some cruzeiros. The experts admit that the decision on the goal of the primary surplus (revenues minus spending) will be the greatest problem for defining the new agreement with the IMF. They said: "This is the issue on which the talks will be most difficult."

Crusius Terms Proposal 'Illogical'

PY1502163693 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Feb 93 Section 1 p 6

[Article by Regina Alvarez and Sonia Mossri]

[Text] The government does not want to adopt the recessionary measures which have been proposed by the IMF to stabilize the country's economy and reactivate its

agreement with Brazil. Planning Minister Yeda Crusius told FOLHA that the IMF wants Brazil to accumulate a primary surplus amounting to 5.7 percent of the gross domestic product [GDP] (\$25 million). Crusius believes that target "is absurd and illogical."

The primary surplus is what is left of the revenues minus the government's expenditures, without taking into account the monetary correction and the payment of interest on the debt. In order to be able to accumulate such a large amount of resources, the government would have to cut back expenditures and investments and desist in its attempt to resume economic growth. The experts are working on the hypothesis of a surplus amounting to 2 percent of the GDP.

Minister Crusius admits that negotiations with the IMF will be very difficult, because it wants guarantees for the agreement with private creditors. However, the government is going to try to establish realistic targets "that can be fulfilled," asserted Yeda Crusius.

The economic team's strategy is to show the IMF mission, which is scheduled to arrive in Brazil in March, the achievements made by the Brazilian Government in balancing its accounts. Minister Crusius regards the drop in inflation in February, the approval of the fiscal reform by Congress, and other projects such as the rescheduling of state and municipal debts as some of these achievements.

The government believes that the country's institutional stability will provide the necessary guarantees for reaching a new agreement. Yeda Crusius said that the economic team, during its talks with the IMF, is going to raise the issue of the great political agreement currently prevailing in the country, which is reflected in the great popularity and stability of Itamar Franco's government.

Franco Revokes Law To Reduce Companies' Taxes

PY1302111893 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The provisional measure that revokes large companies' right to pay less income taxes already is in force, but it must be approved by Congress within 60 days. President Franco's decision to revoke this law surprised even the government team. Franco has decided that not even a penny will be lost. To that extent, he published a sentence in the official gazette and thus revoked Law No. 8200. The provisional measure revoked the law before the judicial branch ruled on it. The measure contradicted the decision made by the Chamber of Deputies, which already had rejected previous attempts to revoke this law when it voted on the fiscal reform.

Finance Minister Paulo Haddad used this negative vote by Congress to explain the current Brazilian situation to the IMF. Advisers who attended the IMF meetings this week have reported that Minister Haddad was pressed to

adopt harsher measures seeking to increase tax collections, such as revoking Law No. 8200. The finance minister said Congress already had voted down the proposal and nothing else could be done. While Haddad was flying back to Brazil, President Franco signed the provisional measure revoking the law.

Planning Minister Yeda Crusius said she supports the measure, but admitted knowing nothing about it. Franco's decision to sign this provisional measure was not known at the Planning Ministry. Federal Revenue officials, who were not consulted either, spent the day preparing technical arguments to negotiate with Congress the provisional measure's approval within the next 30 days.

Businessmen are threatening to resort to the courts to protest the provisional measure that suspends the fiscal amnesty previously granted by the government. [passage omitted]

If the provisional measure that annuls reduced income taxes for large companies is approved by Congress, numerous businessmen may resort to the courts because they believe the provisional measure is unconstitutional. [passage omitted]

Deputy Francisco Dornelles, former finance minister, said in Rio de Janeiro today that the provisional measure is unconstitutional and should not even be received by the Senate president. Deputy Luis Roberto Ponte, who was the spokesman for the committee that drafted Law No. 8200, said in Porto Alegre that through the provisional measure the government is retaliating against businessmen who criticized the Provisional Tax on Financial Operations, the tax on checks. Deputy Ponte also said the provisional measure is unconstitutional. [passage omitted]

Actions by 'Cabinet in the Shadows' Analyzed

PY1502222793 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Feb 93 Economy Section p 3

[Text] Brasilia—The abrogation of Law No. 8200 was the last of a series of actions that a group of President Itamar Franco's friends undertook without the economic team's approval. Finance Minister Paulo Haddad and his advisers are trying, with flexible attitudes and without engaging in controversies, to check the "cabinet in the shadows." But this is a task that has surprises every day.

The main actors in this game are Consultant General Jose de Castro Ferreira, Justice Minister Mauricio Correa, and special adviser Alexandre Dupeyrat Martins, who joined the group as presidential economic adviser. Other group members are Civilian Household Chief Henrique Hargreaves and secretary Mauro Durante.

The president's friends repeatedly have taken action since the beginning of the Franco administration. Their first action was against Paulo Haddad's economic policy,

which—they claimed—centered around the adoption of high interest rates. This action had a victim: former Minister Gustavo Krause, who said he resigned in an effort to make Minister Paulo Haddad's tenure feasible. Krause disagreed with the pressure on the team and struck back by resigning when the president's friends, led on this occasion by the justice minister, advocated the replacement of the economy minister by UnB (Brasilia University) professor and economist Dercio Garcia Munhoz, a traditional advocate of the reduction of interest rates.

Haddad was surprised several times by the changes, which were not decided by the BNDES [National Bank for Economic and Social Development]—supposedly in charge of managing the program—but by the office of the consultant general. The BNDES lost control of the privatization program, and the finance minister himself was surprised at the cancellation of the auctions. Minister Correa is engaged in a specific battle with the finance minister over Sunab's [National Supply Superintendency] links with the Justice Ministry.

In view of the evidence of his loss of political influence in the Planalto Palace power game, Paulo Haddad has been advised by his friends to get closer to President Itamar Franco, proposing to him studies and options to overcome the crisis. To this end—people close to Haddad have said—the minister should have a highly qualified team. Haddad's exceedingly discreet attitude at the ministry might be conveying a feeling of insecurity to the president, who has asked for opinions from all economists who have visited him. This is what happened during an audience the president granted to the PT [Workers Party], during which PT deputy and economist Aloisio Mercadante was invited to design a plan after he criticized the country's situation.

Franco Vows To Continue Privatizations

PY1602005593 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] In a message addressed to Congress on the opening of the 1993 sessions, President Itamar Franco reaffirmed his decision to fight starvation and misery.

Franco said the nation's main objective should be to give all men and women the same opportunities for self-realization. But while this goal remains unaccomplished, the state cannot just do nothing while children and old people are starving, the former because they do not know yet how to defend themselves, the latter because they no longer have anything with which to defend themselves.

Today more than ever, the fight against misery is the fight against the state of poverty of millions of Brazilians. Democracy does not work only at an institutional level; it also works to constantly improve the distribution of income in a state in which there is more efficiency and solidarity, the president said.

Franco added that Congress has cooperated with him because it gave the executive branch the legal instruments for taking urgent action. The Brazilian people, however, the president continued, expect courageous modifications in the country's legal structure in the amending of the Constitution scheduled for this year.

The president reaffirmed the government's commitment to the privatization of state-run companies. But he warned that it is not possible to agree—on behalf of doubtful pragmatism—to donating to private foreign or domestic groups the assets that have been built with the money, work, and intelligence of the Brazilian people.

President Franco added that the government has honored the international obligations assumed by previous administrations. Franco said Brazil continues with talks with its foreign creditors, with the objective of adjusting the repayment of our debts to our development conditions.

The president said that Brazilian reserves stood at approximately \$20 billion at the end of 1992, most of which was obtained from the balance of trade surplus. Brazilian exports hit a record level of \$36.2 billion, producing a \$15.7 billion surplus.

Unfortunately, the president said, we cannot be proud of these figures, which were obtained mostly thanks to a steep drop in consumption levels and low salaries. This allowed us to compete with apparent advantage on the world market.

Foreign Exchange Market Shows January Surplus

PY1302110193 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Feb 93 Economy Section p 3

[Text] The Central Bank [CB] reported that the foreign exchange market had a surplus of \$605 million in January, thus registering an increase of \$450 million compared with December 1992. This growth is attributed to the \$1.1 billion positive balance of exchange contracts for export and import transactions. Financial transactions, however, showed a deficit of \$524 million. Exporters purchased \$2.8 billion in foreign exchange while \$1.7 billion in foreign exchange was sold to importers. These transactions are not indicative of the actual movement of goods entering or leaving the country but of the payments made either before or after loading and unloading goods.

The CB has not gathered all the necessary data to provide the exact amount that was remitted abroad in January. It is known, however, that authorized banks sold a total of \$1.5 billion in foreign exchange to companies that had to remit payments abroad, whether profits and dividends, return of flight capital, or to repay principal and interest on their external debt.

Banks purchased a total of \$990.3 million in foreign exchange from brokers and companies that borrow money abroad.

According to the CB, the gathering of financial resources from abroad totaled \$1.2 billion. It must be pointed out that the aforementioned amount of deposits does not always coincide with the actual inflow of money on the Brazilian exchange market. Of the total amount of \$1.2 billion, \$529.3 relates to direct investments and investments in the stock exchange. Direct investments in cash added up to \$100 million, of which \$104.1 million corresponds to incoming investments and \$4.1 million to repayments.

Stock markets attracted \$236.9 million in cash, of which \$425.2 related to incoming investments and \$188.3 to repayments. The marketing of securities plummeted from \$486 million in December 1992 to only \$6 million in January. The reason behind this plunge can be attributed to restrictions imposed by the CB on this type of transaction and to the fact that some companies floated their securities behind schedule. According to the CB, this situation will be reversed in February, and it is estimated that approximately \$500 million will be attracted in securities.

Army Spokesman on Venezuelan Border 'Problems'

PY1602000393 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] The Army's support for social programs, which has been requested by President Itamar Franco, depends only on the release of funds. This information has been released by General (Gilberto Serra), the Army Ministry's Press Department chief.

(Serra) is attending a top Army command meeting being held in Rio de Janeiro. The meeting is presided over by Army Minister Zenildo Zoroastro de Lucena. The meeting, which is being held at the Eastern Military Command headquarters and being attended by 21 generals, will last two more days.

(Serra) also referred to the problems occurring along the border with Venezuela. He said the matter is being addressed through the appropriate channels, in a joint action by Itamaraty and the region's military commands.

He denied that the Army has undertaken any action to expand its presence in the region:

[Begin (Serra) recording] The Army does not intend to do that. It is the country that needs to expand its presence in that area. This has not been done only through the Army. The Calha Norte, an interministerial project, provides for this action. [end recording]

(Serra) added that Minister Zoroastro de Lucena has nothing to say on the dissatisfaction of some sectors of the Rio de Janeiro military police, in connection with the dismissals that the Army has made in some police units. He said the dismissals are in keeping with the Constitution, and have nothing to do with any possible intervention in the states.

Chamber of Deputies PMDB Leader Elected

PY1202171293 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Feb 93 p 6

[Excerpt] Brasilia—For the third consecutive year, Deputy Genebaldo Correia (Bahia State) yesterday was elected leader of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] in the Chamber of Deputies. This victory paves the road for former Governor Orestes Quercia to be reelected party president. Correia received 61 of 93 votes, and after the vote count he admitted having received help from Quercia and the governors. [passage omitted]

Chile**Russians Have Data on Chilean Chemical Weapons**

PY1202221793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2013 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, 12 Feb (EFE)—The Russian secret services today insisted that they have concrete data on the chemical weapons that allegedly exist in Chile, and that they are willing to discuss them with Chilean Government representatives.

Vladimir Antonov, a member of the Service of Espionage Abroad [Servicio de Espionaje en el Exterior], told EFE that the data published in an official report are true, although Chilean Ambassador to Moscow James Holger denied them.

Antonov said: "The report is based on concrete data, and we are willing to present the evidence we have to the Chilean Government and discuss it."

The report states that Chile still has chemical weapons which were produced during the de-facto regime headed by General Augusto Pinochet, who still heads the Chilean Armed Forces [as published].

Ambassador Holger told the Russian INTERFAX news agency that the information contained in the report entitled "Extermination Weapons: A New Threat to the World After the Cold War," are groundless. He added that the facts reported in the chapter dedicated to Chile are untrue, because "there are no chemical weapons in Chilean territory, as the report states."

Holger twice met Yan Burlyay, first deputy chief of the Latin American Countries Administration Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, to discuss the issue, and Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma did the same with Russian Ambassador to Chile Vasilii Gro-mov.

Despite the official denials, Vladimir Karpov, spokesman of the Russian secret services, asserted that "our report is based on facts and not concoctions."

Israeli Companies Said Modernizing Air Force Planes

PY1202164493 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] According to the Israeli newspaper YEDIOT AHRANOT in Tel-Aviv, Israeli aeronautic industries are modernizing Chilean Air Force AF-5 [as heard] planes. It adds that Chile will pay \$300 million for the modernization of these fighter planes.

The Israeli newspaper says this information has been released by the specialized London magazine FIGHT [title as heard], which reported that test flights of the first two modernized planes already have begun. Modern electronics instruments reportedly were installed in them.

An Israeli aeronautics industries spokesman stated that they are not used to commenting on press reports, especially from countries that are identified, such as in this case, nor do they report on their operations.

Chilean Defense Minister Patricio Rojas visited Israel last July, and on that occasion the Chilean Embassy in Tel-Aviv said the idea was to implement joint projects. He added, however, that it is not a question of an arms race but of refurbishing planes.

Another specialized magazine, INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE REVIEW, reported eight months ago that Israeli industries were modernizing 50 Chilean Air Force Mirage planes called Panteras.

The magazine added that the works will consist of installing flight instruments, electronic warfare systems, and firing systems, in addition to new radars that would be the same as those designed in the 1980's for Israeli fighter-bombers and fighter aircraft, the production of which has been suspended for budgetary reasons.

Argentine Army Chief of Staff Meets Pinochet

PY1202180493 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Argentine Army Chief of Staff Martin Balza said today in Santiago that anything related to negotiations on the Continental Glaciers is not a matter that concerns his institution.

Balza had a busy agenda of activities today. At 0900 he met General Augusto Pinochet, who personally invited him to commemorate the 176th anniversary of the Chacabuco Battle on 12 February.

[Begin Balza recording] I fully agree with the spirit of peace that prevails and has always prevailed, except for some cloudy moments, between Chile and Argentina. I think the military's mission is not to make war. [end recording]

He later held a meeting behind closed doors with acting Defense Minister Enrique Krauss. General Balza also

participated with Gen. Pinochet in placing wreaths at the monuments of Bernardo O'Higgins and San Martin.

Suspension of Talks With Bolivia Confirmed

PY1202192093 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas has announced the suspension of commercial talks with Bolivia. Vargas regretted the situation, which was prompted by the controversy unleashed in Bolivia due to the criticism made by high-ranking military officers of the rapprochement proposed by Bolivian Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean.

Let us remember that Bolivian Defense Minister Alberto Saenz' official position is to place Bolivian maritime demands above any bilateral trade.

Moreover, Bolivian Navy Commander Admiral Miguel Alvarez has stated that Bolivian military officers cannot subordinate the lofty national maritime interests to the signing of a commercial agreement with Chile.

Ronald MacLean had won a vote of confidence from the Bolivian Congress to achieve a supplementary economic agreement and, if possible, to resume diplomatic relations between the two countries. He added that Chile is an economic outlet for Bolivia and that the agreement will favor his country more than Chile.

The bilateral agreement approves a list of 100 products that could be exchanged. The signing of the agreement was scheduled for 5 or 6 April at the meeting of foreign ministers that was to be held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

Government Seeks To Settle Border Disputes

PY1502204893 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 3 Feb 93 p 5

[Text] Before the end of his term, President Aylwin would like Chile to be in a "new border situation," that is, a situation in which all pending border problems have been solved so that nothing may hinder work with the four Southern Cone countries: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, and Peru.

This objective was outlined yesterday in response to a question asked of Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma. The minister spoke after installing a Chilean-Peruvian commission that will seek to find common positions on the pending points of the treaty signed in 1929 with Peru.

He was asked: Are you working to put Chile in a new border situation at the end of the presidential term?

I am, the foreign minister replied, outlining the objectives involving neighboring countries.

Concerning the Peruvian case, which is being studied by the Peruvian-Chilean commission, Silva Cimma said:

"We are working to settle some topics, which are relatively minor and which still are pending in relation to the interpretation of the 1929 Treaty. We are also working on the joint activities that we will undertake with Peru when all the points of the treaty have been settled. These are our objectives, and we have to work accordingly."

According to the minister, the president's proposal, on which Aylwin himself gave instructions to the minister, is that "the matters with neighboring countries should be settled before the end of the presidential term."

In conclusion, the government wants, from the viewpoint of borders, "nothing to hinder the very clear path toward the future that the four Southern Cone countries—Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Bolivia—may take in the economic, social, and cultural areas, and in the area of technology transfers," Silva Cimma said.

Peruvian Ambassador to Chile Alfonso Rivero, who is heading the Peruvian delegation attending the talks on the 1929 Treaty, which began yesterday, said the talks began "in an encouraging atmosphere."

The ambassador added: "I would like to reiterate that I have faith and that I am convinced that the talks will be successful, because of the political context within which they are being held, which I consider a landmark in history. I am optimistic and I believe we are on the right path."

Poll Reveals Aylwin's Popularity Remains Strong

PY1602115493 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] A public opinion poll conducted on 6 and 7 February in the Metropolitan Region reveals that 69.2 percent of those questioned support President Aylwin's administration while 20.4 percent favor the opposition.

Interior Minister Enrique Krauss expressed satisfaction at the results. He said:

[Begin Krauss recording] I believe these are undoubtedly positive results. It is most gratifying to see such strong support for the president after heading the government for three years. It is also a challenge because we have a whole year ahead of us. This is election year in which there will be social and political pressures but, as the president has pointed out, we will tackle them head-on because we want to achieve as many of our targets as possible. [end recording]

New Socialist Movement Formed

PY1502203893 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 4 Feb 93 p C2

[Text] A new socialist faction, which submitted its declaration of principles and the list of names of its leadership to the Electoral Service, surfaced yesterday under the name Socialist People's Movement [Movimiento Pueblo Socialista].

This new movement calls itself an autonomous party that supports "the peoples and forces that strive for democracy against the monopolistic and transnational capitalist order."

Communist Party Says Leaders 'Followed'

PY1602124593 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Communist Party leaders have complained to Interior Minister Enrique Krauss about the fact that some of their main leaders are constantly followed and their headquarters are watched.

[Communist leader] Gladys Marin reported that during the meeting with Minister Krauss they also protested the fact that the homes of journalists Juan Andres Lagos and Francisco Herreros where raided while they were held under arrest.

Mireya Baltra and Manuel Canteros, members of the party central committee, were present at the meeting. [passage omitted]

'Top-Quality' Marijuana Replaces Cocaine

PY1502220993 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Feb 93 pp C1, C4

[Text] The National Drug Enforcement Brigade proposed to Investigative Police senior officers the need to restructure the drug enforcement policy in Chile's northern cities by intensifying the control of marijuana in the valley of the Choapa River (Illapel) and the Cachapoal River (Rancagua). Seeds from "chilombiana," a high-quality Colombian variety of marijuana, and "red dot class" marijuana have been detected in this area. These two top-quality hallucinogens are aimed at replacing the consumption of cocaine, which is scarce because of the repression.

The Education and Prevention Department of the National Drug Enforcement Brigade, headed by police inspector Jose Miguel Vallejo, made the proposal after the January evaluation that included the First and Second Regions and Norte Chico in La Serena.

The evaluation results and the intense control of cocaine trafficking from Peru and Bolivia revealed that changes have been detected in drug addicts, who have shown a preference for the "chilombiana" and the "red dot class" marijuana, which can replace the cocaine planted in the Altiplano.

The marijuana plantations that have been detected in Illapel and Salamanca are intended for the country's northern region, and those discovered in Coltauco are aimed at the southern region. These plantations are replacing the traditional marijuana planted in the Aconcagua Valley, which is subject to rigorous patrol.

There are 61 varieties of marijuana. "Chilombiana," a mixture of Andean seeds from Chile and Colombia, and

the "red dot class," a hybrid plant that carries this name because of the pigmentation of its leaves, are the best-known varieties in Chile.

Vallejo based his evaluation on reports that Maria Garces Peet, 22, and Marco Antonio Vallejos Gonzalez, 20, were arrested on 6 February in Antofagasta on charges of having received a marijuana shipment from Illapel. They carried 280 grams of the drug inside one-gram packages known as "empanadas."

Vallejo said the shipment procedure and the paper packages are similar to those used with cocaine for its sale to consumers.

As for drug sales, the evaluation reveals that in the absence of students in the summer, the drug is offered to tourists, especially in the Norte Chico area, and to workers, mainly the so-called "seasonal" workers hired for the fruit crop.

Vallejo provided evidence of this situation by noting that worker Wilfredo Arancibia Pizarro, 25, was arrested on 6 February in La Serena. Arancibia spent 11,000 of his 50,000-peso monthly wage to purchase three grams of cocaine.

Vallejo noted that the fact of spending 20 percent of the salary on drugs damages the drug addict and his family. He urged everyone to reflect on possible consumption en masse and the risk to the entire society.

As for the price, one gram of marijuana costs 1,000 pesos in Antofagasta, that is, the equivalent of cocaine paste's price.

One can manufacture a "cigarette" with one gram of marijuana and a "mono"—a mixture of tobacco and cocaine, which causes pleasant sensations in the consumer.

Investigative Police seized 829 metric tons of marijuana in Chile in 1992.

Colombia

Armed Forces Operation Against FARC Continues

PA1502123093 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] The operation against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] leaders continues on the ground and in the air. The so-called Suma Paz operation advances along common lines in three departments.

The Suma Paz, targeted at capturing Manuel Marulanda, a.k.a. Tirofijo, has started to yield results. The Juan de la Cruz Varela guerrilla camp was dismantled by 500 members of the Special Forces and the School of Artillery. The camp could house 200 men, who were part of the FARC leadership's personal bodyguards, particularly Tirofijo and Mono Jojoy. For the commander of the operation, the main target continues to be Tirofijo.

[Begin recording] [Colonel Carlos Alfons] I cannot say this individual was around, although there were clues. I can say, however, that heavy fighting occurred near the Arroz creek in the southern area.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think Marulanda was there?

[Alfons] He or any other FARC leader might have been there. [end recording]

War material, 58 field sets, and intelligence documents were found in the camp.

[Begin recording] [Alfons] Yes, they had planned to attack Cabrera and Venecia simultaneously. They also intended to attack La Aguadita, on the highway to San Miguel. The documents revealed they had plans to kidnap six persons soon. [end recording]

According to its commander, the Suma Paz operation, one of the largest after the storming of Casaverde, has succeeded in pushing FARC's main body of armed men back toward the Duda canyon on the border between Cundinamarca and Tolima.

Police Find Gunpowder, Cocaine in Valle

PA1502201593 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión
Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] In Palmira, Valle Department, police seized 5,000 kg of gunpowder packed in medicated talcum powder bottles. The driver of the truck carrying the jars said that the cargo was to be used for fishing. However, this type of fishing is banned.

Guerrillas use gunpowder to make booby traps. Police disclosed that such a large quantity could be used to make car bombs and added it would be equal to 80 kg of dynamite.

It was also reported in Valle Department that police raided houses in Palmira and Pradera where they found marijuana, cocaine, and army uniforms. Five people were arrested in connection with this raid.

In Medellin, the Army and DAS [Administrative Department of Security] officials found 190 kg of cocaine at a transportation terminal. The drug was to be sent to Turbo in a small bus and from there it was to be shipped abroad.

The authorities confirmed that same bus had carried weapons for the guerrillas before. The driver and his assistant were arrested.

Drug Lord Duque Franco Killed in Risaralda

PA1402161593 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión
Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Report by Richard Millan]

[Text] Rogelio Duque Franco, second in command to drug lord Orlando Cediel Ospina, has been murdered under mysterious circumstances in Risaralda Department.

Rogelio Duque Franco left his home in downtown Belen de Umbria for Pereira. Thirty minutes later, in a place called La Soledad on the La Virginia-Medellin road, he was ambushed and murdered inside his vehicle. A landslide in the area made Duque's killing easier. It was reported that the hired assassins positioned themselves on these hills, from where they killed their victim.

Rogelio Duque Franco, 50, a resident of Belen de Umbria, was repeatedly linked to judicial cases of homicide, personal injury, drug trafficking, and illegal possession of weapons. His rural properties were raided on various occasions, the last time of which was during Operation Green Ice. At that time, drug lord Orlando Cediel Ospina was captured.

Duque Franco was the organizer of cavalcades in Belen de Umbria. He was appreciated greatly among the poor because each December he gave away gifts. He was shot 16 times with a 9-mm gun and at this time is laying in state in his residence.

In the city, there is a tense calm, and given this incident, security measures have been beefed up. The funeral will take place on the afternoon of 13 February under strict security measures.

Former National Police Official Killed

PA1502021193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión
Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] General Carlos Arturo Casadiego, former National Police deputy director, was assassinated a few minutes ago at 21st Street and 15th Avenue, one block from Bolivar square, right in the center of Armenia.

At approximately 1150 [1650 GMT] on 14 February, while driving his car to buy a newspaper, Casadiego was shot three times in the head by hired killers riding on a motorcycle.

Gen. Casadiego, who was being investigated for illegal enrichment, had been deputy police director in 1990. He had been running a coffee farm of his own near Armenia. At the time of the attack he was unescorted. The police are trying to determine the identity and whereabouts of the killers. The security measures taken are all the more justified because President Cesar Gaviria is scheduled to arrive in the capital of Quindio Department.

Terrorism Unsettles Oil Industry Finances

PA1402133993 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO
in Spanish 10 Feb 93 pp 1a, 1b

[Report by Alcibiades Boitia]

[Excerpts] The oil industry has been jolted unmercifully by terrorism. During the past five years, losses as a result of attacks against the oil infrastructure, especially the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline, totalled \$800 million or approximately 600 billion pesos. During 1992, losses amounted to \$133 million, and the country was unable to export at least six million barrels of crude oil. The end result is that for the first time since 1975, Colombia had a \$16.1 million oil deficit for November and December [1992]. Additionally, in order to ensure the oil supply to the Barrancabermeja and Cartagena refineries, Colombia was forced to import three million barrels of crude oil at a cost of \$54 million. [passage omitted]

Not included as part of the losses is the ecological damage, which Ecopetrol [Colombia's state oil company] officials have estimated at being four or five times greater than the [\$16 million] oil losses.

The guerrillas' power was such that for the first time Ecopetrol was forced to invoke the force majeure [Act of God] clause to justify the noncompliance of foreign crude supply contracts.

In addition, terrorist activity against the pipelines, mainly the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline, was so obtrusive that Ecopetrol was compelled to establish the transportation and storage vice presidency in order to maintain a sufficient quantity of oil that would enable the company to honor its spot market contracts as well as its commitments with other clients.

Likewise, the situation compelled Ecopetrol to import three million barrels of crude oil valued at \$54 million in order to avoid paralyzing the Barrancabermeja and Cartagena refineries. These two refineries cover internal demand which is estimated at 130,000 barrels per day.

As a result of this unwelcome situation to the Colombian oil industry, Ecopetrol had to double its gasoline imports thereby having to spend \$84 million.

Up until October, Colombia had a \$48 million oil surplus. In November, it recorded a \$6.1 million loss, and in December there was also a \$10 million loss. Total loss: \$16,159,000; approximately 13 billion pesos. Colombia has not had an oil deficit since 1975.

The situation in the state oil company is really critical. During the first semester of the year [1992], Ecopetrol was earning 150 billion pesos, an amount that had already surpassed the 143 billion profit recorded in 1991. However, after examining the first balance sheet results, it is possible that 1991 profit levels will not even be reached. There are still large items to be included [in the final earning results]. However, Ecopetrol officials are not too optimistic with respect to 1992 profits.

There is also the provision whereby Ecopetrol must invest in Carbochol [Colombian Coal Enterprise] in order for this enterprise to be able to reorganize its finances, which are already bound as a result of the high level of foreign indebtedness.

The complex public order situation has discouraged the presence of more foreign capital in oil exploration and exploitation. As a result of the Cusiana deposit discovery, the crude oil "boom" attracted the attention of more than 10 companies to the region. However, most of them have adopted a wait and see attitude hoping for an improvement in Colombia's public order situation.

Two Car Bombs Explode in Santa Fe de Bogota

PA1502164293 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1620 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Two new unclaimed terrorist attacks have been reported. We are going to summarize the situation. Four people were killed, more than 50 were injured, 20 cars were totally destroyed, 15 residences were seriously damaged, and considerable damage has been reported at the Tequendama Hotel and the Centro Internacional. These buildings are next to the two sites where the two car bombs exploded. There is no third car bomb. General Oscar Pelaez, commander of the Santa Fe de Bogota metropolitan police, has just told this station that there was no third car bomb. He has asked the media and the people not to spread rumors.

Paraguay

Argana-Ybanez Colorado Faction Holds Rally

PY1202175493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 12 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] In one of the largest political rallies held in the last few months, the [Luis Maria] Argana faction last night ratified its victory in the Colorado Party's internal elections held on 27 December and asked Generals Andres Rodriguez and Lino Oviedo to respect the popular will of the Colorado people. A colorful parade of party emblems and placards with slogans capped the fervent rally of the Argana-[Juan Bautista] Ybanez faction.

The rally was delayed more than one hour with the apparent objective of giving time for the numerous groups to arrive at the three plazas in front of the seat of Congress. The organizers started the rally at approximately 2200 [0100 GMT] with the singing of the national anthem and the Colorado polka that were played by a well-known band that always played during the propaganda programs broadcast on the radio during the Stroessner regime.

The series of speeches was started by Chamber of Deputies candidate Walter Bower, who criticized the government and demanded that his movement's victory in the recent Colorado Party internal elections be acknowledged. The other speeches, which had similar contents, were given by the following leaders: Carmen de Gonzalez, Cesar Ramon Garcia (from Chere), Carlos Romero Pereira, Francisco Alvarenga (from Caaguazu), Diogenes Martinez, Juan Bautista Ybanez, and Luis Maria Argana.

The Argana followers centered their speeches on the fact that they are the legitimate winners of the 27 December internal party elections, on the fact that Rodriguez and Oviedo must tell their "opportunistic sidekicks" to respect the will of the Colorado people, and on the fact that they [Rodriguez and Oviedo] will not be able to nominate consensus candidates.

"No to a second round," "we are not going to negotiate consensus candidates," "we are not going to betray the Colorado people," and "we are not going to make deals with two military chiefs," among other phrases, were repeatedly used in the speeches, which the crowd repeatedly applauded with shouted hurrahs.

The majority of the speakers resorted to diatribe to achieve the appropriate effect on the Argana followers. Romero Pereira asked [them] "to die in the streets" in order to defend the popular will. Ybanez asked the delegations to stay in Asuncion to demand the acknowledgment of his ticket's victory in the internal elections. Other leaders also called for a permanent guard in view of what might occur.

Ybanez made one of the most aggressive speeches. In one passage he said: "I want to tell Gen. Rodriguez and Gen. Oviedo that the victory of the Argana-Ybanez ticket is assured." And he emphasized: "And I want to tell [National Encounter presidential candidate Guillermo] Caballero Vargas and [Domingo] Laino [Authentic Liberal Radical Party presidential candidate] that they must realize that they must remain in their places."

There were very different views regarding crowd size, even among the organizers themselves. One of the rally's organizers placed the number at 200,000 people, while a campesino leader indicated that more than 300,000 participated. Comparing this rally with the other large rallies that have taken place recently, it can be said that some 100,000 persons participated, highlighting the fact that the participation in this rally was much larger than the National Encounter rally held in the same place. The media estimate that between 80,000 and 120,000 persons participated.

Argana Addresses Rally

PY1202193293 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 0208 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Speech by Colorado Party presidential hopeful Luis Maria Argana at party rally at Independence Square in Asuncion—live]

[Excerpts] Dear fellow party members, from all over the country; Engineer Juan Bautista Ibanez, running mate on the victorious ticket; Colorado Party youth and women; Paraguayan people, who are now listening to the voice of the fatherland, of the people, of the peasants, in this magnificent demonstration of popular enthusiasm: I want to tell you that we are witnessing the highest expression of the sovereign and popular will of the

Colorado people, which was reflected by the vote on 27 December 1992. [shouts] [passage omitted]

Fellow party members, you should know that all of you, all of us, the entire peasant people who are listening over the radio, who are watching television, have been miserably betrayed. [shouts] For four years the Paraguayan people have been made to believe that they should have confidence in the people's sovereignty, that it would be possible to believe in direct voting by all Paraguayans for electing their leaders. However, when the Colorado people made their choice on 27 December—despite the tricks, frauds, and swindling, by more than 50,000 votes—this choice was invalidated. [shouts] If Colorados are robbed this way, just imagine what will be robbed on 9 May, when the Paraguayan people are to express their sovereign will. These thieves, these traitors of democracy, do not deserve the respect of free, sovereign Colorado Party members. [shouts] [passage omitted]

Faithful to patriotism and to Colorado principles, we demanded respect for the people's will; we demanded respect for the law; we demanded direct voting. Yet we were answered with a takeover of the Colorado Party board on 31 December. [shouts] We were answered with coercion of the judges to prevent a lawful tribunal from counting the votes. We were answered with a parade in which tanks and horses stamped on freedom in order to pressure the people [shouts] instead of using those tanks, horses, and cannons to prevent the diversion of the Pilcomayo River and uphold Paraguayan sovereignty. [shouts]

We Colorado Party members, who are nationalistic by tradition, by history, and by calling, admire our glorious Armed Forces, and we recognize the glories and the heroic performance of our glorious olive green soldiers, for whom we want a better future, better salaries, job stability, fair retirement, and guarantees that can allow them to fulfill their mission with dignity. [shouts]

We recognize that the Armed Forces are the fatherland's conscience, and that the Armed Forces' weapons can only be used for defending national sovereignty and our territorial integrity, and for upholding the essential values of Paraguayan nationalism. [shouts]

We therefore firmly promise that we will respect our glorious Armed Forces and that we will have them respected. They will not be destroyed just because a couple of commanders are involved in corruption, or because one or two chiefs believe themselves the owners of a betrayed revolution, as if they were self-designated mentors in charge of appointing government successors, betraying democracy, the people's faith, and direct voting. [shouts] [passage omitted]

Let the traitors of democracy and freedom, the traitors who attack the Colorado Party, know that we will not resign the mandate that the people gave us, that we will not negotiate because we are the prisoners of the will of the people, who are here with us and whom we will obey. [shouts] [passage omitted]

We cannot betray the faith in our names that the ballot boxes have reflected. We cannot make high-level, closed door agreements with two insolent leaders who have been flattered by opportunists, businessmen, and entrepreneurs, who were awarded Itaipu and Yacyreta contracts, who want to continue to rob the people, further impoverishing our beloved fatherland. [passage omitted]

Let these few temporary personages know that they are assuming the responsibility, in the eyes of history—that they are like a Colonel Escurra [Paraguayan president and Colorado Party member who was ousted by Liberal Party revolution in 1904] of 1993—that they will be responsible for the possible fall of the Colorado Party. [passage omitted]

Fellow party members, despite treason, which is lying in wait; despite the fact that the artful, persistent rancor of some bad Paraguayans and bad Colorados is against the people's will; I can tell you that despite everything, no matter what, and no matter how hopeless it may be, the Colorado Party will on 9 May defeat the forces of regression and opposition. [shouts]

This is simply a test of our strength, to see how far authentic Colorados can go, to see whether the glorious barefooted people of the stream of Piripucu and of the banks of the Parana River can once again repeat history, thus making the people's will, the Colorado vote, and the expression of a united people, whose foundation is the victory and unity of Colorado people, lead to a historical reconciliation of all Paraguayans. [passage omitted]

Rodriguez To Analyze Criticism

PY1202212993 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
12 Feb 93 p 6

[Text] Asked about the criticism leveled by Luis Maria Argana and by Senator Carlos Romero Pereira against him during the rally held last night, President Andres Rodriguez said: "We will analyze this criticism and view its consequences."

The question seemed to make Rodriguez annoyed. In an emphatic and somewhat threatening tone, he idly suggested that the words of the two Colorado Party leaders could have consequences. Asked with whom he will analyze the criticism and what consequences are possible, the president abruptly said goodbye and got in the presidential car.

Several presidential security agents told journalists that the president would not discuss the issue, but faced with the insistence of the journalists, the president did make those comments.

This morning, President Rodriguez attended the graduation ceremony of the Military Reserves Training Center officers. The central ceremony was attended by the highest-ranking military chiefs who refused to comment on the issue. They all said they were following the commander in chief's orders and that they could not talk to the press. Questioned about the criticism voiced last

night by leaders of the Argana faction and by Luis Maria Argana himself, most military chiefs told us: "The commander in chief is the only person authorized to comment on this topic. We follow his orders."

General Oviedo Responds

PY1402184593 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 13
Feb 93 p 2

[Text] First Corps Commander General Lino Cesar Oviedo yesterday harshly criticized supporters of the [Colorado Party] Argana faction by noting that they represent a return to the past. Division Gen. Oviedo made this statement during an informal conversation held with some journalists at the end of the CIMEFOR [Military Reserve Training Center] graduation ceremony. Gen. Oviedo said he has nothing to do with the Colorado Party internal conflicts and added that he voted for democracy and against dictatorship on 27 December. Moreover, he said that [Colorado Party presidential hopeful] Luis Maria Argana has never publicly denied that he is former dictator Alfredo Stroessner's candidate. Oviedo added that many of the political operators working for the Argana list, such as Hiran Delgado von Leppel, "Icho" [Alberto] Planas, Enrique Nogues, Bader Rachid Lichi, Martin Chiola, and others, are individuals who have had connections with the Stroessner regime.

Asked about the content of the speeches delivered during the Argana rally, Oviedo said that divisiveness, sectarianism, hatred, rancor, and slander will not bring any benefits to the country. He added that respectful, courteous, and decent dialogue aimed at helping all national sectors achieve our country's economic development are the best means to achieve the established goals.

Oviedo said the future national government leaders must necessarily "be honest, competent, and dedicated."

Gen. Oviedo stated that many leaders, who do not meet the aforementioned prerequisites, dislike democracy, which will not allow our country to achieve development. "Moreover, in a democracy people can resign, make suggestions, and sue; but, above all, there is a state of rights. Unfortunately, there are still people who do not want to live like this."

He added: "They have no other means to assume government positions other than by force, and once in power they grab everything as if they owned the country."

Asked whether he watched the Argana rally on television and listened to the harsh criticisms made against him, Oviedo said he was unable to watch it on television because he was attending a wake.

But he said: "I want you to tell me who is responsible for disqualifying the party Electoral Board. What are they annoyed about? I do not understand."

Journalists told him that it is about his meddling in internal Colorado Party affairs, particularly about his political statements on 27 December, the date of the Colorado Party primaries.

He reasserted: "On that date, I said that I voted for democracy. I cannot be incoherent. I fought against the dictatorship and I will not support its return."

When asked whether the Armed Forces have concrete evidence that the Argana faction receives money from Stroessner, he asked what faction does Delgado Von Leppel belong to in the list of congressional candidates. "I ask you, whom does Rachid Lichi work for? Whose minister was Chiola? Of Stroessner," he said.

Oviedo continued asking and giving names of people connected with Stroessner who currently are working for Argana. "Icho Planas and Nogues, what were they in the country? Front men for Stroessner. What were their prerogatives? The monopoly of the big businesses in the country," he said.

"Didn't they directly say in the airport that Stroessner's candidate is Argana? Argana did not object to that assertion, did he? Yes or no? Or am I lying," he asked once again.

"He is with them permanently. Who prepared the podium yesterday? Do you know? It was Icho Planas and Quique Nogues in person. Who goes to visit Stroessner once or twice a month? Delgado Von Leppel. Then, will there be a return to the past with these people or not," Oviedo asked.

The 1st Army Corps commander went further when he asked: "What do the sons of Argana usurp when they are or when they were in power? Go and look at all the customs offices. They occupy all the customs offices."

We asked Oviedo what will happen to the Colorado Party if its internal crisis is not solved. He said: "I am against the dictatorship. [Domingo] Laino [of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party] is against the dictatorship; I agree with him. [National Encounter presidential candidate Guillermo] Caballero Vargas is against the dictatorship; I agree with him. I have never had controversies with them."

"The only thing I said was that I am against the dictatorship, and I will maintain that until I die because I fought against that and my subordinates died for that. Little do I care who may win, but given that these are people who belonged to the leadership of the dictatorship, they cannot continue governing," Oviedo said.

When asked what can be done in case they are elected, he answered: "I already said it. Let them put up with them. If they have not learned the lesson yet, let them put up with them. I already said that we will respect the people's decision."

Gen. Oviedo asked us again if we thought him capable of tarnishing the Armed Forces' merit for having rebelled against the dictatorship by rebelling now against an election result.

"Do you think I am crazy or what? We will not do that; that is not the way. Now we must win in the ballot boxes and protect the Constitution and the laws. We want a free and democratic state of law," he said firmly.

When asked if he believes there has been a bad selection of a candidate for the official faction of the Colorado Party to run against Argana, he replied that he had nothing to do with the selection of the candidate.

"I did not participate in that. I had nothing to do with it. I am honest. I never even interfered in appointing an orderly in the National Constituent Assembly or in any public institution," he said.

Finally, when asked how the Colorado Party internal crisis will end, he answered, regarding the Argana faction: "They will abandon the race."

Politicians React

PY1402001993

[Editorial Report] Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish on 13 February carries on page 2 a number of unattributed articles describing reaction to the rally organized by the Argana faction of the Colorado Party on 11 February, in front of the Congress building in Asuncion.

In a 300-word article Diogenes Martinez, coordinator of the Argana-Ybanez ticket, is quoted as having denied that the tone of the speeches given by the top leaders in the Argana faction "in any way" means an end to possible negotiations, as has been interpreted by the Wasmosy Colorado faction. Martinez is further quoted as having said: "They probably thought that our movement would give up its triumph in the internal elections, but that never occurred to us." Until the last day, he added, the Argana faction will be willing to reach an agreement so that all Colorados might run together in the 9 May general elections.

Meanwhile, in another 300-word article on the same page, Guillermo Caballero Vargas, independent candidate for National Encounter, is cited as having characterized Luis Maria Argana as a rival to worry about, given his great power to summon his followers. He is further cited as saying that the tone of Argana's speech was much the same as what we were used to hearing throughout his political campaign—a tone of insults and slander, which the National Encounter movement does not approve of as a campaign means.

Finally, in another 300-word article Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, is cited as having acknowledged the great summoning power of the Argana faction. He is cited as saying that through the speeches he understood that the Argana faction would not be giving up its triumph in the

internal Colorado elections. The speeches, he is cited as having said, "were very directly against President Rodriguez and General Lino Oviedo, and in addition they disqualified the mediating committee, which they said 'has nothing else to do.'" The article says Benitez Florentin expressed his hopes that the election terms would be maintained according to the Constitution.

Mediation Committee Fails To Produce Agreement

PY1302231593 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
13 Feb 93 p 3

[Excerpt] The mediating committee created by President Andres Rodriguez to see whether there is any possibility of reaching an agreement between the two rival Colorado Party factions and putting an end to the internal party conflict, has apparently failed, given that the two factions did not reach an agreement. This can be understood by the statements made yesterday by Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken, who said that the talks had reached their limit.

Frutos Vaesken told the media that the talks between the mediating committee and the Colorado factions had reached their limit, without any faction having yielded an inch of its position. "This intransigence endangers the internal transition period of the Colorado Party," the minister said.

Analyzing the negotiations carried out so far, Frutos Vaesken said that the factions had been given several alternatives, ranging from holding new internal elections to making up an agreed upon list of candidates.

None of the options were totally accepted by either of the factions, although at one point of the negotiations some candidates said they favored holding new elections. This is currently being analyzed by a team of legal experts, who will seek a legal solution to the problem.

Dionisio Gonzalez Torres, former rector of the University of Asuncion, acknowledged that "there is a reciprocal distrust between the two factions," although he did not admit that the mediating committee failed. He admitted however, that they are running against the clock, as the time for registering presidential candidates expires on 9 March.

Gonzalez Torres believes the special Colorado Party convention taking place on 14 February might solve some aspects of this conflict, although he expressed his doubts given that the Electoral Court to be constituted through the convention will not have the total approval of the two contending factions. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Confined to Barracks for Convention

PY1402214493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1951 GMT
14 Feb 93

[Text] Asuncion, 14 Feb (EFE)—Senator Carlos Romero Pereira told EFE that the Paraguayan Armed Forces have been confined to their barracks since 0600 (0900

GMT) on 14 February due to the ruling Colorado Party's special convention. This convention seeks to find a way out of the Colorado Party crisis.

Romero Pereira, who is closely following the discussions in his party convention held with the participation of 371 representatives, explained that the confinement to barracks "is a way of saying: Watch out, we can go out in the streets and return to the past."

The "Colorado" crisis began in December 1992 after the resignation of members of the party's Electoral Court, forcing the suspension of the vote count after the internal elections to designate candidates for president, vice president, senators, deputies, and regional governors.

The last time the military confined itself to its barracks was on 27 December when the "Colorado" internal elections were held.

Senator Romero Pereira, one of the main figures of the team that supports the candidacy of former Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana, feels that the government and some Armed Forces chiefs support the movement headed by businessman and former Integration Minister Juan Carlos Wasmosy.

"If the soldiers take to the streets, it will be worse for the Army because it is an institution very important in our republican tradition, and 90 percent of its officers are for institutionalization and the democratic process, and this can create problems inside the Armed Forces," Romero Pereira told EFE.

Argana supporters have criticized the military, especially the president and Armed Forces commander in chief, Andres Rodriguez, and 1st Army Corps Commander Lino Cesar Oviedo after the rally in which they participated on 3 February, together with Wasmosy followers, to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the coup that defeated Alfredo Stroessner (1954-1989).

The Colorado Party headquarters, where the convention is being held, is under strict police control, supported by security civilian personnel and anti-riot police from the Special Police Department. Vehicle traffic has been suspended on the streets around the building.

Colorado Party Convention Recesses Until 20 Feb

PY1502022793 Asuncion Radio Nanduti in Spanish
0115 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Regarding the Colorado Party's special convention, a new vote will be taken because there are differences in the figures. There are 370 registered conventioners but 374 ballots were counted. This means there are four additional votes, which represents an irregular situation.

Apparently all the ballots have the signature of Carlos Podesta, the newly elected convention president. The

question is where additional four ballots came from; how did the convention president sign four more ballots? [passage omitted]

This situation is delaying the Colorado Party convention. Therefore, there is still no official information for party members. The situation remains the same; there are still no official results. The only thing the convention has done since this morning was elect the convention president. This is all that has been done. The convention was going to elect the first member of the party's Electoral Board but apparently a new vote will have to be taken. The convention has to elect five standing members and five alternate members of the Electoral Board. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] A resolution was just made indicating that the convention is now in recess until 0800 [1100 GMT] on 20 February.

[Podesta] I will ask the convention members to put their hands up in order to certify their support for this resolution. I can see that a great majority supports the resolution. Thank you very much. Therefore, I hereby declare the convention in recess until 0800 on 20 February. [end recording]

ANR To Request Registration Period Extension

PY1502173693 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 15 Feb 93 p 6

[Text] The Colorado Party will propose the extension of the deadline for registering presidential candidates for the 9 May elections once the internal party crisis is resolved. This was reported by Colorado Party President Blas N. Riquelme, who admitted the need for extending the deadline to have enough time to register Colorado Party candidates.

Blas N. Riquelme said that once it resolves its internal crisis, the Colorado Party will request the extension of the deadline to register presidential candidates, which expires on 9 March. Riquelme also admitted that the ANR [National Republican Association, Colorado Party], which up to now does not have an official candidate for the 9 May general elections, is pressed for time.

In response to questions made by NOTICIAS, the president of the ANR executive board said that after the current deadlock is overcome, the ANR may request an extension of 15 or 20 days to gain the necessary time to register its candidates. He added: "The party has the option of requesting an extension of the deadline to participate in the 9 May general elections."

Riquelme said that this will be suggested to ANR legislators who will be in charge of promoting an amendment of the Electoral Code to extend the deadline for the registration of candidates. Regarding the timetable for the holding of general elections, Riquelme said it should be respected. However, he did not reject the possibility

of achieving a political agreement if the new ANR electoral board is unable to resolve the current party crisis, as a result of which the Colorado Party may have no candidates in the upcoming general elections scheduled for May.

Speaking about his views on the extraordinary ANR convention, Riquelme expressed his satisfaction because all party sectors attended the convention, particularly those from the Argana-Ybanez and Wasmosy-Seifart factions.

Alluding to the faction headed by Luis Maria Argana, who according to unofficial results won the party primaries on 27 December, Riquelme said he hopes that whatever is decided by the convention will be respected by the opposing factions, because all of them were represented in the convention.

Riquelme stated: "I am optimistic that what is decided by the convention will be respected, and that this will constitute the first step in achieving a solution to the party's election problems."

Presidential Candidate Caballero Gives Message

PY1202193693 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
11 Feb 93 p 7

[Text] National Encounter presidential candidate Guillermo Caballero Vargas, in a message addressed to the people last night, said: "On 9 May, we Paraguayans will cast our votes no matter what to exercise our sovereign will and open a new stage in our history."

He added: "There is no electoral schedule other than the one established by our Constitution, or another acceptable procedure to elect governments other than the people's vote. Nothing and nobody can get the people confused or make the people who already have stood up and recovered their civic participation to take a step back. We are a tranquil and serene but firm force. Our power is based on work, social solidarity, participation, and faith in democratic institutions, and in our own strength."

He also said: "The time has come to get involved in debating the great problems that the next government elected in the elections will have to solve. Paraguay has urgent and serious social problems that cannot continue to be delayed. The problems cannot continue to wait for a leadership that spends its time in never-ending conflicts in search of power."

He concluded by calling on all parties, movements, and their candidates to start a debate on ideas and proposals about the great challenge ahead.

In the morning, Caballero Vargas intensified his political campaign for the 9 May general elections by visiting a jeans factory located on Battilana and Primero de Mayo streets in Asuncion. On this occasion, he met with about 100 workers in a fluid dialogue to explain part of his government platform.

He said: "We are visiting the workers in their places of work to bring them our movement's message, and especially our will to work together for a better country where the National Encounter is becoming a valid instrument for change to produce in our country the transformations that will be able to effectively fight with success against the most serious problems affecting our society. This is related to a job shortage, more dignified work conditions, just salaries, and a social security in accordance with the interests of the country's majority."

'Convinced' of Change of Power

*PY1402195593 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
13 Feb 93 p 5*

[Article by special correspondent Ruben Dario Baez]

[Excerpts] After finishing a tour of Cordillera Department yesterday, National Encounter presidential candidate Guillermo Caballero Vargas said: "I am convinced that on 9 May there will be elections and that on 15 August there will be a change of power."

He added: "The elections will be held on 9 May, and these elections will be controlled by ourselves and surely by other political parties that are committed to democracy. I believe that the people's vote will be respected. I believe there is absolutely no possible maneuvering room because neither the national or international community will allow a distortion of the process our country is experiencing." [passage omitted]

Caballero Vargas also referred to the rally held last night by a faction of the Colorado Party. He said that "it was probably the largest rally recorded in the last few months."

Argana Warns of 'Fierce Civil War'

*PY1502181793 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish
15 Feb 93 p 5*

[Text] Luis Maria Argana, Colorado Party presidential hopeful registered on ticket No. 4, has warned that if the extraordinary party convention decides to establish an arbitrary party electoral board that will alter the election results, the candidate who is proclaimed will lose the 9 May general elections. Argana said this would mean the fall of the Colorado Party. He added: "Unfortunately, this means that we would experience a fierce civil war."

Argana made this statement during a dinner held on 13 March at the Los Aleros farm, which was attended by his running mate Ybanez and convention members who support him.

Speaking about the current situation affecting the Colorado Party and the current national situation, Argana addressed convention members, saying: We are living in crucial times for our country, and we pray to the Lord that they will not result in tragedy.

He later expressed his hope that reason and prudence would prevail in the crisis the Colorado Party is experiencing in view of the upcoming 9 May elections.

PLRA Leader Says Future 'Uncertain'

*PY1502191393 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
15 Feb 93 p 6*

[By Carlos Ortiz, Milciades Castillo, Gello Mendoza, and Ruben Dario Baez]

[Excerpt] Piribebuy—During a rally held here yesterday by the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA), PLRA President Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin said the future is uncertain in view of the violent attitude upheld by the ruling party. He warned, however, that if the ruling party tries to undermine the democratic process and avoid a Liberal victory, PLRA members will honor the memory and the blood spilled by Eduardo Vera [Liberal Party leader who headed an uprising].

The rally, which was held in the town's main square, was attended by a crowd ranging from 15,000 to 20,000 people, the majority of whom came from Cordillera Department.

The PLRA politicians who addressed the rally were Carlos Guerero, Edgar Ramirez, Elsa Romero de Nunez, Fernando Noguera, Francisco Rivas, Miguel Abdon Saguier, Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, and Domingo Laino. [passage omitted]

French Aid Depends on Political Situation

*PY1202143193 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
12 Feb 93 pp 20, 21*

[Text] The possibility of an eventual disruption of the institutional order created by the lack of political definition in Paraguay has stopped the economic-financial cooperation of the French Government. French Ambassador Robert Rigouzzo said that meetings can be held after the situation is stabilized to study concrete projects to help our development. He indicated that after the debt problem was solved the doors for cooperation were opened.

There is a waiting period until the future of the process clearly shows that it will not suffer any changes. This was the clear message given by French Ambassador Robert Rigouzzo yesterday.

Since the foreign debt problem was solved the French Government has been willing to help our country, but the lack of definition in the democratic process has frozen the established plans. Rigouzzo said the solution of the foreign debt problem was an important step taken by the Paraguayan Government to improve bilateral relations.

He added that, based on the new situation, France is willing to open lines of cooperation in various fields, which is something that was unthinkable before the

agreement on financial commitments was reached. It should be pointed out that the economic leadership reached an agreement with the Paris Club, which represents the main creditors.

Rigouzzo indicated that there have been real possibilities to develop economic, financial, scientific, and cultural cooperation between the two countries since the debt problem was solved, and that his government is watching the political events developing in our country. He said: "We are hoping that with political stabilization we will be able to study the concrete projects together."

He said there are problems in Paraguay, and that only with the country's political stabilization can meetings be held to study and decide on the beneficial French cooperation plans. An opportunity to put this idea into operation will be the first meeting of the French-Paraguayan Joint Commission to be held in accordance with government plans in the middle of this year.

The ambassador explained that once the debt problem was solved, our relations were ready for real development. After February 1989, Paraguay made a decision to take the road to democracy and this is very important to France.

"The French Government has followed this experience since it started with great sympathy and interest," said Rigouzzo in a brief evaluation of the last two years as French ambassador in our country.

He noted that it was easy for him to try to develop our relations within the framework of democracy and that the French people look with interest at events in Paraguay. This situation is encouraging for our country, and nothing can be achieved in a day.

French Ambassador Robert Rigouzzo was decorated yesterday by Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken with the "Grand Cross" National Order of Merit in recognition of his work in improving our bilateral relations in the last two years.

Peru

Fujimori Interviewed on 'Saturday Focus' Program

PA1502015193 Lima Radio Programas del Peru
Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Interview with President Alberto Fujimori by "Saturday Focus" program host Dennis Vargas Marin; EXPRESO Chief Editor Jaime de Althaus; Augusto Alvarez Rodrich, publishing editor of Apoyo Inc.; and Arturo Salazar Larrain in Grau Hall at the Government Palace in Lima on the "Saturday Focus" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Vargas] Excuse me, Mr. President. If, as we understand, New Majority/Change 90 represents the majority in the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] because this alliance has 44 congressmen, then they would do exactly what you have just

suggested. Do you not think you can in anyway influence what the CCD does? If so, what about the autonomy you mentioned?

[Fujimori] Do you mean the Legislative Branch's autonomy?

[Vargas] Yes.

[Fujimori] That would mean the president of the Republic would not have a personal opinion. I understand you journalists demand freedom of the press. As a person, I, Alberto Fujimori, demand and practice freedom of expression. This is why no one can prove me wrong in this respect. This freedom is extremely important. What did the president of the Republic do in the past in view of opposition criticism? He used to invite the journalists to the presidential building, specifically to the bar you probably have visited, where they would spend some time drinking whisky. All the while, the president remained silent, trying to leave things as quiet as possible. But it is good for the country to tell things just as they are. For instance, if the judiciary requires reorganization and such a process should continue precisely because it does not openly run against the 1979 Constitution, then this must be said. Why not arouse a debate, even quoting the president? I think it is always important to express one's opinion.

[De Althaus] My question has to do with why the CCD has not yet touched the judiciary, at least to convey the idea that the topic is now going to be considered? Why is there a president of the CCD Fiscalization Commission, precisely the one that proposes the president's reelection? This seems to mean that he is not very interested in supervising. Why do these problems exist that mar the image of democracy that the CCD should project?

[Fujimori] Well, this is my assessment of the situation: In truth, the CCD has not yet acquired the necessary experience. It is still affected by the previous congress's inertia. It is true that certain problems have not been touched upon and that certain secondary points have been magnified. The procedure known as pettifoggery, which we all know about, dilutes and sets backward the in-depth debate. The majority has been unable to control this situation, I think, due to a lack of experience in exercising democracy. If the people elected one majority and this is New Majority/Change 90, this majority should set the pace; do away with all of the opposition's pettifoggeries and solve the truly important problems. I think this is very important and will be put into effect.

You mentioned the supervisory role. Well, it exists at all levels, not only in the Congress and the commission. The supervisory intent starts at the Executive. I will be the number one contender in this regard. This is why I never keep silent when it comes to debating this type of problem. But, back to the topic you presented so well in the EXPRESO editorial, Peru does require us all to work for its image. The image projected abroad is not the one referred to at home. It is said there is a hard, severe dictator in the country who gags freedom of the press and

makes the people follow slogans, and so forth. This image has also been projected at governmental levels because there are people who oppose, not the government, but Peru. I think we should work to correct this, also.

[Vargas] This is the "Saturday Focus" program. Today we are in Grau Hall at the Government Palace. The president of the Republic will now answer a question from Augusto Alvarez Rodrich.

[Rodrich] Mr. President, I think it is good to discuss things and debate ideas. I see there is a contradiction in your government's top leadership and I would, therefore, like to discuss the following topic: The government is interested in a very ambitious privatization program, which I believe is being handled properly. It includes the privatization of enterprises such as Sedapal [National Potable Water and Sewage Service], the telephone company, and ElectroLima [Lima Electric Power Enterprise]. Furthermore, I have heard that you would like to see ElectroLima privatized by July.

However, on the week of 1 February, I read that General Nicolas de Bari Hermosa, chief of the Army Joint Staff, said that as long as the state holds the majority of the capital in these enterprises—Sedapal, CPT [Peruvian Telephone Company], and ElectroLima—their privatization will not represent a problem for national security. That would, in fact, mean that those companies will not be privatized and, in that case, I would recommend that if that is the government's plan, the best thing to do is not to privatize them because there will be no buyers for those enterprises under those conditions.

General Hermosa added that President Alberto Fujimori sees the privatization from a practical point of view and that, as supreme commander of the Armed Forces, he also takes the defense of the nation into account. At this point, I see a serious contradiction between the plans of the Armed Forces in this regard and those of the government economic entities. What do you think?

[Fujimori] I think there may have been a misconception on the part of the general which added to the interpretation caused by the misconception, yielding all those deductions.

However, I believe there is consensus on privatization. We are talking about services that are currently inefficient and expensive—and they go against the national interests precisely because they are expensive.

Therefore, as General Hermosa said, we have to take a practical position. The practical thing to do is privatize those services, make them efficient, lower their costs for the users, and use the proceeds to invest in development projects. That is national security. That is how I interpret General Hermosa's statements. I do not think there is a contradiction. [passage omitted]

[Rodrich] Regarding the economy, in September 1992 you appeared on television and announced a program for

the reactivation of the economy. In reality, that program has not yielded any results because in 1992 the economy shrunk by 2.7 percent.

Maybe that explains the fact that, at that moment—according to a poll conducted by the Apoyo poll firm on the week of 1 February—49 percent of the public disapproved of the current economic policy.

My question is: If that situation continues, would you be willing to change the stabilization program? Furthermore, I believe that after former Minister Bolona's resignation, you offered that post to Raul Salazar of the Sode [Solidarity and Democracy Movement] and this would have meant a change in the style and the outlook of the short-term economic policy.

My question is: Would you offer that post again to Mr. Salazar to change the economic policy if the current economic problems are not solved? And, would you accept the political conditions proposed at that time?

[Fujimori] At that moment the recession was growing and it was difficult to change that trend immediately. But the part of the economic program for the reactivation of production is being carried out, even if slowly since there are many legal or bureaucratic obstacles. For instance, we want to make 1 million buses and we have almost completed the first stage. Fortunately, the footwear program which involves 1 million pairs of shoes is advancing properly. Some other programs are also working.

In light of the void left then at the head of the Economy Ministry, some names were shuffled. Raul Salazar was one of the names, but the idea was not to change the economic program. We planned to continue with our stabilization program, with the same guidelines. We were not thinking of an overshooting [previous word in English], or fixing the exchange rate for the dollar, or fixing the interest rates. We were not going to change the program.

An alternative would be to establish relatively low interest rates or to fix high exchange rates. This has been discarded.

It is necessary to continue this program, regardless of who the economy minister is, and at the same time to overcome distortions. We know of three classic distortions but there is another: the dollarization of the economy: Eighty percent of our economy functions with the basis in dollars [dolarizada]. We had to find ways to de-dollarize our economy. There are all sorts of distortions. I think that the de-dollarization process must be progressive.

[Rodrich] What do you expect from Minister Camet in the next five months? What specific results do you expect to have by July, let's say, from the work by the minister, you, the one who makes the appointments?

[Fujimori] The president expects something from all his ministers. When I appointed Minister Bolona I told him

that I was concerned with high interest rates because as I see it, they generate inflation. This interest rate has been reduced somewhat but not enough. I expect that Mr. Camet also will be able to bring down this rate to allow enterprises to secure capital at a reasonable cost and to maintain the stabilization process, which implies keeping the inflation rate at 2 percent per month.

[Vargas] Speaking of inflation, Mr. President, don't you think that this program is almost worn out and that perhaps it is necessary, as Augusto has said, to modify it because if the government is going to continue to manage the economy the hard-line way it was managed during Mr. Bolona's period, we don't know how badly the situation of the poor will worsen, especially in areas that too often fail to receive social support. This is what really concerns us. How do you harmonize this concern with a coherent program that is acceptable for the IMF but that is not terrible for the country, for a suffering Peru? Have you thought about this?

[Fujimori] I want to tell my countrymen who are listening to us that changing the economic program would mean bringing in new rules. To have a new economic program, the government would have to say, for example, that the annual passive interest rate would not be more than 8 percent, and that the active interest rate [tasa activa] would not be over 13 percent. Based on this we could then prepare a program, but I do not think it is suitable to fix interest rates.

The other way to change the program would be to say: Gentlemen, here in Peru, the exchange rate for the dollar will not be 1.70 soles but three soles per dollar, and we are not going to change that. This would be another way to change the program. These possibilities have been discarded. Currently, the exchange rate is floating, the interest rate is set by the market, a distorted financial market that must be corrected. This is why I want to bring in a couple of foreign banks to force the national banks to reduce their interest rates, not to force them by imposition but through competition.

[Vargas] Are the banks coming?

[Fujimori] Some banks are interested. Anyhow, the economic program was harsh over the past 30 months because it was necessary. Peru has a goal. I say this to the opposition, to all the opposition people who wonder why it is so harsh. [passage omitted]

[Vargas] De Althaus will ask the final question.

[De Althaus] Mr. President, I wish to touch upon the subject of the Navy. During the previous meeting you asked us journalists to report abuses, provide evidence, and help you in the moralization process. We have reported and will continue to report on these things. We have published facsimiles of checks issued in the name of certain top officers, a memorandum signed by Admiral Bustamante asking for the revocation of an order to include in his records the checks outside the budget which, he says, are handled directly by the Economy

Directorate. In addition, we have shown that the indictment made by a U.S. grand jury can be made only with a sound basis and requires a long time. Also, we reported that a record has been set by completing this process in seven months. [Enrique] Villagarcia has finally been charged with seven offenses with evidence and everything. This cannot be done in just one or two weeks.

It all boils down to this: There is no firm evidence, but the Navy commander and top officers are somehow subject to suspicion and accusations, all of which jeopardizes the Navy's image and morals. This situation should not be allowed to go on for an indefinite time. Do you not think the Navy commander should voluntarily step aside not to jeopardize the Navy's image as an institution? Do you not think this would clear the air even further so the moralization process can be continued?

[Fujimori] Before answering your question, I wish to reiterate that the government decision to change the strategy in handling the Navy problem was successful. Had we followed the U.S. indictment procedure, Villagarcia still would not have been detained and we would not have been able to call the shots and demand that he give us the names of the top officers involved in this embezzlement. We can make this demand now that he is in prison. The previous procedure of gathering information would have given those responsible for the embezzlement time to....

[De Althaus, interrupting] Excuse me for interrupting, Mr. President. The reports we have and which everyone is familiar with are that the indictment was made against Villagarcia and he has been imprisoned because of solid evidence, all of which has taken several months, not one or two weeks, as you seem to have said. This resulted from the work of the commission and the hired lawyers. Otherwise, it would have been impossible to indict him.

[Fujimori] That is precisely the procedure that was not followed, according to my information. He could have been arrested immediately with the evidence at hand, but it was preferred to take the path of the grand jury. This would lead nowhere, however. Please let me clarify something. As I have said....

[De Althaus, interrupting] It is the grand jury which is accusing him, Mr. President.

[Fujimori] Yes, but it would have been impossible to arrest him without this procedure, with this lawyer.

[De Althaus] That is to say, the charges were not being substantiated, according to the reports we have. A very lengthy investigation would have been necessary to substantiate them.

[Fujimori] The existing evidence was enough. I understand no further evidence was necessary. But let me clarify something here.

[Vargas] Excuse me. Before your clarification, I wish to say we have two minutes to end the program.

[Fujimori] I will be brief. Rear Admiral Bustamante reported to the Navy commander that American Security funds were transferred to another bank.

[De Althaus] He still did not know.

[Fujimori] The transfer was false, but he reported it in writing. That's when we began to have doubts. On to another thing. There are permanent exchanges, even among our own politicians. But this is part of the moralization process. I think Admiral Arnaez should not step down, but stay in his position, precisely to continue the investigation. Should any other person appear to be involved, we should of course remove him without any qualms whatsoever. Why these permanent exchanges? Apparently someone is taking advantage of this subject to try to undermine the authority of the Navy or the government. And yet this has been happening since 1982. For instance, a congresswoman said an investigation would be conducted to establish who was responsible, the identity of X. Something like X-2. What is this? I will investigate everyone and sanction everyone involved. But some congressmen want to pose as moralizers. I wonder why they didn't report these things before when this person was even part of the government? Particularly because this had been carried over since 1982. Why didn't they report this while they were members of the previous congress? Or is it that something stood in the way? These are the doubts that I still have. I think it is important for the country to know that I will not yield a single inch in matters of moralization. I ask the people to be alert in the presence of the pseudo-moralizing stances of some persons who are really covering up for those responsible.

Fujimori on Amnesty, Ecuador Relations

PA1302224893 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori on 12 February dedicated two schools, one at Ventanilla and another at San Juan de Lurigancho. Addressing the media, the president admitted he is opposed to amnesty for the military personnel involved in the foiled coup, although he pointed out that he will respect any decision to that effect by Congress. He also referred to the case of the U.S. spy who sold information on the Peruvian Armed Forces to Ecuador. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] Congress has the power to grant amnesty, it is not up to the executive branch. Personally, I believe the responsibility of each of those involved in the 13 November 1992 coup attempt must first be established. Once that has been done and the corresponding legal measures implemented, the possibility of a pardon might be considered.

However, I am not in favor of amnesty. I have been very clear about that. But I repeat that this issue concerns the legislative branch rather than the executive branch.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, a U.S. intelligence officer is being tried in the United States for selling military secrets from Peru to Ecuador. What is your opinion....[pauses] What do you know about that?

[Fujimori] Well, we had learned about the matter from the U.S. Embassy before it was announced by the media. We have confidential information. This is, let us say, an accidental case; it is a personal case that does not at all affect our country's relations with our northern neighbor. I believe there is sufficient information to that effect. I feel that there were probably some personal interests here by arms traffickers. Neither Peru nor Ecuador fell into that trap.

[Reporter] Does that compromise national security?

[Fujimori] Absolutely not. We did not fall into the trap of the arms traffickers, who first created an atmosphere of unrest. Instead of buying tanks or missiles, we decided to buy caterpillar tractors and graders, as I announced at the Ecuadorian Congress. Our relations will continue to be completely cordial and will grow closer all the time. [end recording]

State of Emergency Declared in Tarma Province

PA1502203693 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1714 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Lima, 15 Feb (DPA)—The Mantaro Military and Political Front declared a state of emergency, starting today, 15 February, in Tarma Province, Junin Department, as a response to the recent upsurge in acts of terrorism.

The zone's military and political chief adopted this measure, which will last for 10 days, because of the murders perpetrated by the Shining Path [SL] in different peasant villages. Official sources indicated that a strong contingent of soldiers will be sent to begin combing for the SL column active in the region.

The latest attack took place Saturday, 13 February, when the SL killed Yanamachay Lieutenant Governor Benjamin Landa, who was accused of collaborating with the Army. After trying him before a "people's court," the terrorists shot him in front of his family. They also shot his father Victor Landa who tried to defend him.

Two weeks ago, the rebels killed 10 members of the peasant defense patrols in Palcamayo District and Tarma's mayor-elect, which signaled an escalation in new terrorist activity in this strife-torn area.

* Army General on Support for Joint Command Chief

93P20092A

[Editorial Report] Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 16 January during its "24 Hours" newscast carries a three-minute report on the 14 January meeting at Army General Command Headquarters during which the commander generals of

the Peruvian Armed Forces and National Police reiterate their support for the current military and civilian leadership. In a similar three-minute "Panorama" report carried by Lima Panamericana Television network at 0200 GMT on 18 January, anchorman Roy Harris notes that "the speeches were as important as the setting of this ceremony."

Correspondent Rosario Enciso of "24 Hours" comments that Army General Howard Rodriguez, chief of the first military region, gave "the most energetic speech." Both "24 Hours" and "Panorama" air brief excerpts of Rodriguez's remarks, but do not mention the length of his speech.

In the recorded excerpt broadcast in progress by "24 Hours" Gen. Rodriguez states: "...people interested in impeding Peru's conquest of peace. They try to generate disunity, envy, verbal aggression, and diatribes, for the obvious purpose of sowing insubordination in the ranks; in this way they are helping homicidal terrorism to grow and recover terrain. We cannot fail to mention that we are concerned that some generals, who had important responsibilities, have forgotten that when they occupied their positions they received the loyalty and respect of their subordinates. Now that we are fulfilling a fundamental (role) in the struggle against terrorism, to pacify the country, they fail to remember these principles, which are the basis of our military training, and they formulate assessments and make comments that affect the very essence of military discipline."

"Panorama" highlights Gen. Rodriguez's unconditional support for Army Commander General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza Rios, chief of the Armed Forces Joint Command, as "the man who personifies and represents our army, and to whom—according to the standards and regulations that govern the discipline of our institution—we owe our loyalty, subordination, obedience, and respect. For it is by this attitude toward our natural leaders that we tangibly manifest our loyalty and respect for, and subordination to the nation."

Venezuela

Foreign Minister on Solving Gold Panner Problem

PA1602032793 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich has stated Brazil must understand that gold panners cause

situations that are inconvenient for its fluid relations with our country. Ochoa Antich said the gold panners have moved two markers on the border and this affects Venezuela.

The foreign minister added that, following talks with Brazil, they agreed to resume the campaigns to install border markers. These campaigns were carried out every year but were suspended in 1992 due to problems encountered by the neighboring country.

[Begin Ochoa Antich recording] That is why I have said the gold panner problem has only one solution, meaning Brazil and Venezuela must implement a joint policy. This policy will allow the two governments to maintain control of the border so it does not become no man's land, and to prevent the criminal actions which normally occur at the border when two governments do not normally maintain an effective presence. [end recording]

Socialist International Vice President Visits Perez

PA1202210893 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Francisco Pena Gomez, vice president of the Socialist International [SI], stated that Latin America's democratic system has to be modernized. The statements were made at Miraflores Palace, where he visited the Venezuelan president to give him a report on current world problems. The SI vice president reported that current world problems, such as those in the Middle East, Somalia, and the conflicts in former Yugoslavia, were studied at the last SI meeting in Athens.

[Begin Pena Gomez recording] Democracy has taken precedence in our hemisphere. The people's heroic struggles have managed to eliminate the dictatorships that did not respect human rights in the hemisphere. It is, however, evident that democracy has not been able to resolve the people's big problems in Eastern Europe, where a democracy process similar to ours took place, or here. Democracy requires a second phase now: one that will implement economic and social changes. I believe this will require a new crusade, a new struggle, and a new fight to make our people's ideals and dreams for a better life a reality. [end recording]